FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 044 *4 March 1980*

BOLIVIA

President Gueiler Says She Will Not Resign C 1

BRAZIL

Itamaraty Spokesman Views Bogota Terrorists' Demands [O GLOBO 29 Feb] D 1
Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega, Foreign Minister Arrive 25 Feb D 1
Criticism of U.S. Congress D 2
Argentine Air Force Commander Arrives for Official Visit D 3
AFP: PRC Military Mission Contacts Arms Firms D 3
Construction To Begin on Nuclear Plants D 3

CHILE

EL MERCURIO Denounces Soviet Scientific Ships as Spy Ships E 1
Upcoming UN Human Rights Vote Repudiated E 1

COLOMBIA

Reportage on Embassy Takeover Negotiations F 1
Talks Scheduled for 3 Mar F 1
Dialog Postponed F 1
Carter, Turbay Hold Talks F 1
Government Decrees 'Recess' F 2
Commander Uno States Demands F 2
Radio Interview With Commander F 3
Brazilian Paper Interviews Commander [JORNAL DO BRASIL 29 Feb] F 7
Leader's Identity Allegedly Determined F 11
M-19 Reportedly Contacted President F 12
Ex-Hostage: M-19 Can Blow Up Embassy F 12
Released Hostage Describes Guerrillas F 13
Venezuelan Ambassador Comments F 13
Envoy Hostage Urges 'Itinerant Asylum' F 14
Salvadoran Ambassador Not Hostage F 14
Hungarian Envoy Raps Speculation F 15
Justice Minister Comments F 15
Government 'Ready' To Attack [O GLOBO 3 Mar] F 16
Political Parties Support Government F 17
Business Sector Backs Government F 17
EPL Threatens Attack F 18
Wall Slogans Support Occupation F 18
Argentine Consulate in Medellin Attacked F 18
Police Disperse Demonstrators in Medellin F 18
Two Bombs Explode F 19
Two Alleged M-19 Members To Be Arraigned F 19
M-19 Guerrilla Killed Near Military Arsenal F 19

Leftist Threatens Third Strike by M-19 F 20
March Elections To Proceed Despite Guerrilla Action F 20
Media Election Coverage To Be Strictly Controlled F 20

PARAGUAY

Foreign Minister Views Dominican Embassy Situation [HOY 29 Feb] H 1
Police Confirm Arrest of Reporter Hector Rodriguez [ABC COLOR 1 Mar] H 1

PANAMA

Manfredo Views Delay in U.S. Appointments to Canal Board N 1
[LA REPUBLICA 29 Feb]
Government Action Against Broadcasters Protested N 1

CENTRAL AMERICA

COSTA RICA

Foreign Ministry Rejects Asylum Request of M-19 Members P 1
President Scores Soviet Actions in Central America P 1

EL SALVADOR

Columnist Hits U.S. Strategy in Suppressing Revolutions P 2
[EL INDEPENDIENTE 29 Feb]
FAPU Accuses U.S. Government of Intervention P 3
[EL INDEPENDIENTE 29 Feb]
Observers Predict Leftist Coup in Near Future P 4
[LA PRENSA GRAFICA 29 Feb]
Archbishop Romero Condemns Escalation of Repression P 5
Claremount Urges Participation of Popular Groups in Government P 6
[EL INDEPENDIENTE 29 Feb]
Former Junta Member Ungo Urges Military Purge P 7
[LA CRONICA DEL PUEBLO 29 Feb]

GUATEMALA

Reports of Unrest on Southern Coast Continue P 7
FUR May Not Participate in Municipal Elections P 8

HONDURAS

Official Denies Reports of Agreement With El Salvador P 8

NICARAGUA

Linking of Press Freedom With U.S. Loan Called 'Meddling' P 8
Sergio Ramirez Explains Position on U.S. Loan P 9
Ceremony Honors Murdered U.S. Newsman P 10
International Solidarity Conference Opens in Managua P 10
1 March Session Held P 11
Pastora Claims Outside Interference Involved in Companies P 11
Government Orders Striking Workers Back to Work P 12
Imprisoned EL PUEBLO Newsmen Begin Hunger Strike P 12

CUBA

U.S., UK, PRC Policy on Afghanistan Condemned at UN Q 1
Nonalined Action Urged in 'Tension Areas' of World Q 1
Chomon Meets With Japanese Communist Leader Q 1
Visit of Iraqi Education Minister Announced Q 1

CARIBBEAN

DOMINICA

Authorities Grant Residence Permit to Shah S 1
[Havana International]

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Foreign Minister: M-19 Making No Demands of Him S 1

OTHER COUNTRIES

ARGENTINA

Graffigna Notes Possible Plane Manufacture With Brazil [REUTER] V 1
MiGs-Cereals Exchange With Soviets Denied [LA PRENSA 1 Mar] V 1

ECUADOR

Roldos Vetoes National Development Council Bill V 1
Guayaquil Official Arrested; Reason Not Known V 2

SURINAME

Military Council Meets With President, No Accord Reached V 2
27 Mar Elections Canceled V 2
Havana Notes 'Business As Usual' Atmosphere V 2
Burma Says No Foreign Involvement in Coup V 3
[DAILY GLEANER 29 Feb]

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Itaipu Timetable Advanced 24 Months V 3
[JORNAL DO BRASIL 29 Feb]

PRESIDENT GUEILER SAYS SHE WILL NOT RESIGN

PY291729 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 29 Feb 80 PY

[Text] President Lidia Gueiler Tejada has firmly stated that she will not resign and will continue defending democracy, thus filfilling her commitment to the people and the Congress. She made this announcement in response to questions prompted by domestic and foreign reports that her resignation would take place very soon. The chief of state categorically refuted these claims and added that she has the full support of the armed forces.

President Gueiler paid an impromptu visit to Congress yesterday and after meeting with Jose Zegarra, president of the Chamber of Deputies, sat on one of the benches and expressed satisfaction at being among parliamentarians. She said further that it pleased her to say that she was close to the people and the parliamentarians. She reaffirmed her desire to fulfill the task the Congress has entrusted to her. [recorded passage indistinct]

After her statement she was questioned by the press and said that all the problems the country is now facing will be solved. She declared that she would not resign for any reason.

[Begin Gueiler recording] I will not resign, absolutely not. I have a commitment to the people and to the Congress to defend democracy, and you will always find me here defending democracy. [end recording]

She further said that she is expending too much effort organizing her cabinet at times when there are more important things to do, such as matters related to the electoral process. She also discussed the role the politicians are playing at this point and took advantage of the opportunity to point out that both her government and she herself have the support of the Bolivian Armed Forces.

[Begin Gueiler recording] I would like to tell you that I have the support of the armed forces. The armed forces will probably issue a communique in which they categorically state their support for the constitutional government and the president. [end recording]

As a matter of fact, this communique has already been released over the signature of the commander in chief of the armed forces, Gen Armando Reyes Villa. In the communique the armed forces indeed reiterate their support for President Gueiler Tejada in the following manner: The commander in chief of the armed forces and the Armed Forces High Command have met with the president of the nation in her role of captain general of the armed forces to evaluate the situation of the country. At the end of the meeting the armed forces emphatically reaffirmed their support to allow the president to carry out the democratic process and to hold the general elections scheduled for July in line with the supreme decree approved by the honorable Congress and implemented by the executive branch.

Another communique issued by the armed forces commander in chief states that the operations of this institution have returned to normal and the plan of specific assignments for generals and members of the General Staff has been approved. The commander in chief has also stated his decision to put an end to large-scale military maneuvers and to concentrate every effort on strengthening the democratic process by carrying out tasks inherent to the institution.

ITAMARATY SPOKESMAN VIEWS BOGOTA TERRORISTS' DEMANDS

PY010132 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 29 Feb 80 p 18 PY

[Text] Brasilia (O GLOBO)--According to Itamaraty Spokesman Bernardo Pericas, the possibility of Brazil paying part of the $50-million ransom demanded by the Colombian guerrillas for the release of the hostages is a question which is not yet being considered because there is confidence in the ability of the Colombian Government to reach a solution that will not harm or endanger the captive diplomats.

Yesterday morning the Brazilian Embassy in Bogota succeeded in contacting Ambassador Geraldo Eulalio do Nascimento e Silva by telephone. He said that he was well and that all the other hostages were being treated as well as possible under the prevailing conditions.

The diplomat's spokesman reported that, at the moment, the only concern of the Brazilian Government is Ambassador Geraldo Eulalio's physical safety. Therefore, the suspension of Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro's trip to Colombia on 17, 18 and 19 March due to the events there is a question which has not been brought up, Pericas said.

The last report received by Itamaraty says that the M-19 guerrillas had not set any deadline for the meeting of their demands. Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro's office is in permanent contact with the embassy in Bogota and with the foreign ministries of the other countries having diplomatic officials in the hands of the guerrilla group.

Switzerland and Austria have proposed that a committee be created with representatives of all the countries having ambassadors as hostages. The committee would have its seat in Caracas, Venezuela, to facilitate communications with the Colombian Government and give all possible support. According to Spokesman Pericas, Itamaraty contacted the Austrian Foreign Ministry regarding this matter, but has not yet made any decision regarding Brazilian participation because it wants to discuss the matter with the Colombian Government first.

NICARAGUA'S DANIEL ORTEGA, FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVE 25 FEB

PA272306 Paris AFP in Spanish 0306 GMT 27 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Sao Paulo, 25 Feb (AFP)--Commander Daniel Ortega, a member of the Nicaraguan Government junta, warned the United States against any plan to invade El Salvador. During a press conference here today, Ortega said that the United States is trying to take advantage of the situation in Afghanistan to intervene in El Salvador.

Ortega and Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Manuel D'Escoto arrived here today for a 5-day private visit to participate in an international and ecumenical theological congress.

Besides the Salvadoran situation, the two leaders also discussed the problem of foreign aid for Nicaragua's reconstruction and the role of the church in the Sandinist revolution. Father D'Escoto said Nicaragua enjoyed the understanding and solidarity of many countries including the United States, which supplied very important food aid. Commander Ortega described the foreign aid as small and accused certain industrialized countries of having cooperated more extensively with the former regime of President Anastasio Somoza. He also (?urged) the U.S. Congress to approve the $75-million loan to Nicaragua requested by President Carter.

Ortega said that the issue of the credit to Nicaragua has been discussed for too long a time. He added that the U.S. Congress did not waver in approving $400 million in military aid to Pakistan. This indecision by the Congress is a result of the dispute between the reactionary and militaristic sector and the more progressive sector, Ortega said.

Regarding the Salvadoran situation, Father D'Escoto said that peace and stability will not be achieved there until the people's just aspirations are satisfied. He quoted a phrase from Pope Paul VI saying that, if we want peace, we must seek justice.

Referring to the situation in Nicaragua, Ortega said that freedom does not yet reign there because there are still people who are hungry, who live in poor housing and who are unemployed and there is still a high illiteracy rate. D'Escoto stressed the role of the church in the success of the revolution in Nicaragua since most Christians participated in the armed struggle. The grassroots Christian communities were the main seedbeds of the leaders of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, D'Escoto added. Commander Ortega said that Nicaragua cannot export its revolution, only its [word indistinct].

Father D'Escoto will pay a courtesy visit to Brazilian Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro in Brasilia tomorrow. The Nicaraguan delegation will leave Brazil on 2 March after the closing of the theological congress.

Criticism of U.S. Congress

PY011315 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1926 GMT 29 Feb 80 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 29 Feb (LATIN)--Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto today criticized the U.S. Congress for trying to establish conditions on a $75-million loan for the reconstruction of Nicaragua. During a talk with journalists after a meeting with his Brazilian colleague, Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro, the Nicaraguan foreign minister, warned that his country "will not accept any conditions" on the requested loans.

He explained that reports received yesterday informed him that the U.S. House of Representatives has requested Nicaragua to make public [publicitase] the amount of the economic aid and to commit itself not to violate human rights. D'Escoto said: "Human rights are not violated in Nicaragua not because other countries do not want us to do it, but because we have respect for human rights." He added: "It is unfortunate that the United States is doing this since for many years it supported the man who perpetrated the greatest genocide in Latin America, Anastasio Somoza Debayle."

D'Escoto arrived today in Brasilia from Sao Paulo where he attended the Third Theological Ecumenical Congress. He held a 2-hour meeting with the Brazilian foreign minister and a 1-hour meeting with the chief of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry's American Affairs Department. He said in a statement to journalists that he had paid a protocol visit to the Brazilian foreign minister. He said this meeting helped to establish personal contact with his Brazilian colleague and to discuss Latin American issues in general. He said he also came to express gratitude for the "proper conduct" that Brazil maintained during the Nicaraguan process since Brazil "recognized our government quickly, condemned the Somoza regime and expressed its solidarity by sending us food and medicine."

Although he said the subject of Brazilian aid in the reconstruction of Nicaragua was not discussed at the meeting, D'Escoto reported that negotiations are going on in Brazil for a $7.5-million credit and that it is possible that Brazil will send agriculture, mining and factory assembly line technicians to Nicaragua.

The Nicaraguan foreign minister leaves today for Rome where he will meet with the pope.

ARGENTINE AIR FORCE COMMANDER ARRIVES FOR OFFICIAL VISIT

PY031710 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1330 GMT 3 Mar 80 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 3 Mar (TELAM)--Argentine Air Force Commander Gen Omar Domingo Graffigna arrived at noon today for a week long official visit to Brazil. At the airport he was met by Brazilian Air Force Minister Gen Delio Jardim de Matos and other high-ranking military and civilian personalities.

AFP: PRC MILITARY MISSION CONTACTS ARMS FIRMS

OW281110 Paris AFP in English 0931 GMT 28 Feb 80 OW

[Text] Sao Paulo, Brazil, Feb 28 (AFP)--A Chinese military delegation, on a private visit to Brazil, has had contacts with several arms manufacturers, it was reported today. A Brazilian Foreign Ministry spokesman said the mission included about a dozen "mostly military" members, led by director of equipment planning at the Chinese Defense Ministry, Zhang Ping. The mission was invited to Brazil by the country's leading armoured vehicle manufacturers, ENGESA [Specialized Engineers, Inc.], it was reported, but has also toured the Brazilian aeronautical concern EMBRAER [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] and the Electrometal Company, which specialises in cannon and tank turrets.

Both the Brazilian companies and their Chinese guests have kept a discreet silence on the purpose of the mission, but the local press has described it as an exploratory technical mission. Observers speculated however that business could be discussed in Brasilia next week, where the Chinese are scheduled to meet top Brazilian military authorities. The economic daily GAZETA MERCANTIL suggested this week that the Chinese were interested in licensing agreements with ENGESA and EMBRAER to manufacture light armoured vehicles and fighter jets in China. Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro said recently that although the Brazilian Government had no objection to arms and other military equipment sales to China it was "hard to say whether this visit would have any immediate results".

ENGESA is the West's leading light and medium armoured vehicle manufacturer according to the INTERNATIONAL DEFENSE REVIEW, turning out an average four vehicles a day. Recent reports have said that the Brazilian concern is about to sign a 1,000 million-dollar deal with an unnamed Middle East country.

CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN ON NUCLEAR PLANTS

PY011314 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 1 Mar 80 PY

[Text] Nuclear Centrals 4 and 5, whose installation sites have not yet been established, will go under construction this year. The budget for the electricity part of the projects totals 2 billion cruzeiros, according to a report by the NUCLEBRAS president. During a press conference granted at Planalto Palace today to clarify doubts about the nuclear program, Paulo Nogueira Batista confirmed the intention of the government to execute the whole agreement with Germany.

EL MERCURIO DENOUNCES SOVIET SCIENTIFIC SHIPS AS SPY SHIPS

PY282057 Paris AFP in Spanish 0550 GMT 28 Feb 80 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 28 Feb (AFP)--It was announced here today that the Soviet scientific ship which is going to carry out research in the Drake Sea, between the southern tip of South America and the Antarctic, has espionage capabilities. The ship has a crew of 138 men, including scientists, technicians and seamen.

The Santiago newspaper EL MERCURIO stated in a front-page article that the ship has equipment to study the bottom of the ocean, its temperature, currents, salinity and climate--and to carry out espionage, "due to its sophisticated electronic equiment with full capability for intercepting Chilean communications."

According to the report, the "Akademik Krylov," commanded by Capt Aleksandr Viktorovich Ustimenko, has since 7 February 1980 been in the Argentine naval base of Ushuaia, on the eastern bank of the Beagle Channel, getting ready "for what is going to be a long stay in the Drake Sea."

The Beagle Channel area is the center of a long border conflict between Chile and Argentina which is now under the mediation of Pope John Paul II.

The Santiago newspaper added that the movement of Soviet ships in South American waters, particularly along the coasts of Peru and Chile, responds to a strategy of the current commander of the Soviet Navy to use scientific research and fishing as cover for intelligence activities.

The article points out that "the Soviet fishing and factory ships take the place of submarines and maintain logistical support in all the seas of the world." The newspaper stated that intense activity by Soviet ships along Chilean coasts has been observed since last year.

Two fleets of 11 and 15 ships were detected on 14 February. Previously, another 11 ships were seen off Iquique, five factory ships were seen off Tocopilla in the northern part of Chile and 30 ships were seen off Chiloe, in the southern part of the country. The newspaper also mentioned Soviet activity in Peru, where there is currently a fleet of 43 Soviet and six Polish ships.

EL MERCURIO stated in conclusion that "the use of fishing exploration ships permits the collection of enough oceanographic data for the navy to study the quality of the bottom of the ocean or for the preparation of sounding charts.

UPCOMING UN HUMAN RIGHTS VOTE REPUDIATED

PY010240 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0322 GMT 29 Feb 80 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 28 Feb--Acting Foreign Minister Enrique Valdes today said that the Chilean Government repudiates the upcoming vote of the UN Human Rights Commission even before the voting has taken place because it is discriminatory.

The foreign minister reasserted that the Chilean Government is aware that the next vote of the UN commission will be adverse, and that Chile will be condemned for alleged violations of human rights. Such condemnations have been common in the last few years. Valdes, moreover, dismissed the idea that this vote could cause serious damage to Chile or cause any major reaction except in those countries which have been voting systematically against Chile.

REPORTAGE ON EMBASSY TAKEOVER NEGOTIATIONS

Talks Scheduled for 3 Mar

PA031634 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1616 GMT 3 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 3 Mar (EFE)--The Colombian Government expects to resume the dialog between its representatives and the 19 April guerrilla group which has been holding 14 ambassadors hostage at the Dominican Embassy in Bogota since Wednesday.

The continuation of the talks would be held in the same place they were held yesterday, Sunday, that is approximately 30 meters from the embassy in the same van furnished by the government for the dialog. This van has no back doors and is parked in a small plaza in front of the embassy.

Ramiro Zambrano and Camilo Jimenez--officials of the Foreign Ministry's Foreign Service--as well as a young female guerrilla who represented the terrorist group and Mexican Ambassador Ricardo Galan participated in the initial talks between the government and the guerrillas. It is being said that the second round of talks (?will be held) approximately at 1400 GMT today. However, government sources have remained silent about the situation.

Dialog Postponed

PA031758 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1733 GMT 3 Mar 80 PA

[Excerpt] Bogota, 3 Mar (EFE)--Despite previous plans, the dialog slated for this morning between the government and the guerrillas holding 14 ambassadors hostages in the Dominican Embassy in Bogota did not take place.

The dialog had been slated for 1400 GMT, but apparently it will take place Tuesday, 4 March at the same time, according to the observers posted in the press area, 100 meters from the occupied embassy.

This situation--uneventful otherwise but with troops moving about at all hours--makes one presume that there has been a cooling in the talks between the government and the M-19 guerrillas who last Wednesday seized the Dominican Embassy and took 50 hostages.

Carter, Turbay Hold Talks

PA041254 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0741 GMT 4 Mar 80 PA

[By George Rodriguez Oteiza]

[Excerpts] Bogota, 4 Mar (LATIN)--Diplomatic sources have reported that the negotiations between the Colombian Government and the guerrillas of the 19 April Movement, who have been occupying the Dominican Embassy here for more than 96 hours, will resume today at 0900 (1400 GMT).

U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Colombian President Turbay Ayala have discussed the situation of some 32 hostages--including 13 ambassadors, 2 charge d'affaires, 4 diplomats and several Colombian Foreign Ministry officials--over the telephone. A government palace source noted that the two rulers talked over the telephone on Sunday at 0600 (1100 GMT) and yesterday at 1000 (1500 GMT).

Government Decrees 'Recess'

PA040030 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2350 GMT 3 Mar 80 PA

[By German Acero Espinosa]

[Excerpts] Bogota, 3 Mar (EFE)--The Colombian Government began a "recess" in negotiations with guerrillas occupying the Dominican Embassy here, while sources from the State Security Department said a new blow was struck to the guerrillas today.

A military spokesman told EFE that the government has decreed an 8-day recess in its negotiations with the 19 April Movement (M-19) guerrillas because of final-phase preparations for midterm elections to be held on Sunday. The military source said negotiations were at an impasse after the first contact between the government and the guerrillas on Sunday, when discussions dealt basically with the M-19's three demands. Meanwhile, the country appeared to be convulsed by violence after two policemen were killed on the northern coast and bombs exploded in Medellin, Colombia's second largest city.

In Bogota, epicenter of the occupation of the embassy [as received], police intelligence broke up a guerrilla cell of the clandestine Workers Self-Defense Movement (MAO), the group responsible for killing former Minister Rafael Pardo Buelvas here in 1978.

Presumed urban guerrillas attacked a bank at the Unicentro commercial center in northeastern Bogota, stealing some $80,000.

According to military sources, when the clandestine MAO organization was dismantled, the authorities confiscated automatic weapons, explosives, propaganda and pictures of "Che" Guevara. The MAO, which is virtually extinct, resumed its struggle 4 weeks ago by releasing one of its top leaders, Adelayda Abadya Rey, who had been confined at the Buen Pastor Penitentiary in Bogota.

Police confiscated a large amount of propaganda and plans for terrorist actions to be executed before the elections on Sunday for municipal councils and departmental assemblies throughout the country. In addition, there were lists of important persons whom the MAO presumably planned to kill or kidnap.

Commander Uno States Demands

PA030129 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0044 GMT 3 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 2 Mar (EFE)--The guerrilla chief who leads the occupation of the Dominican Embassy has warned that if the government refuses to negotiate the release of political prisoners "the negotiations will be doomed to total failure."

The mysterious Commander Uno said the point related with the release of the political prisoners is the basic demand of the 19 April Movement (M-19) for a positive solution of the occupation of the embassy. The guerrilla chief's statement comes 6 hours after the M-19 held the first negotiations with the government to seek the release of 40 people held hostage since Wednesday.

In statements to Radio Melodia of Bogota, Commander Uno said he still doesn't know if the government has said it won't negotiate the issue of the political prisoners. The M-19 has demanded the release of 300 political prisoners tried in military courts.

In statements to the press yesterday, Mexican Ambassador Ricardo Galan said the guerrillas are willing to negotiate and find a favorable solution to the occupation.

Commander Uno refused to give a specific reply to unconfirmed reports of the local press about the government's possible refusal to negotiate the subject of the political prisoners and the $50 million ransom. He indicated that the M-19 has at all times been willing to hold a dialog with the government and "as proof of this we released five other persons today." Regarding the government's request that the lives of the hostages must be respected in order to hold a dialog, the guerrilla chief said the government "should not have to demand this from us because we know that the lives of the hostages must be respected."

When he was asked about the results of the first negotiations on Sunday, the telephone call was cut off. The Colombian newsmen had had to make great efforts to make the call since there were problems in the communications with the embassy.

Radio Interview With Commander

PA010022 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 29 Feb 80 PA

[Radio Continente 29 February interview with Commander Uno at the Dominican Embassy in Bogota--recorded]

[Text] This is an exclusive interview with Commander Uno, chief of the operation which has resulted in the holding of a large number of diplomats as hostages at the Dominican Embassy in Bogota. This is the interview:

[Question] Commander, what induced you to carry out this operation?

[Answer] The operation, as its name indicates, is to show the world we want a true democracy for our country.

[Question] Why then did you kidnap diplomats and not members or officials of President Turbay Ayala's administration?

[Answer] Because this was the best way to call the world's attention to our problem. We have thousands of political prisoners in Colombia whom we want released, and also in Colombia there is a cruel repression [passage indistinct].

[Question] [Words indistinct] the security of the [words indistinct]?

[Answer] We guarantee the security of the hostages [words indistinct]

[Question] Are you members of the 19 April (M-19) Movement or on the contrary, is the group at the embassy part of the guerrilla groups operating in Colombia?

[Answer] No sir. All the members operating in the Marcos Zambrano column are members of the M-19 political-military organization.

[Question] Do you accuse the Turbay Ayala regime of being dictatorial and antipopular?

[Answer] Exactly, and of violating human rights.

[Question] What other kind of action do you intend to carry out?

[Answer] At this time my mission is to attain the liberation of the companeros.

[Question] But this type of action could have fatal consequences for the hostages at the Dominican Republic Embassy.

[Answer] The results, fatal or otherwise, will be decided by the Turbay Ayala administration. That is to say, if there are any deaths the only one to blame will be his regime, not us. We want to talk. Yesterday and today we have released 13 persons. [Words indistinct] Costa Rican ambassador, that is to say, that we are showing world opinion that we do want to talk with the government. If the government does not want to talk, this is something else.

[Question] Why don't you expand your humanitarian gesture and release our ambassador, Virgilio Lovera?

[Answer] At this time we are going to liberate the rest of the women here. The ambassador is one of the important hostages we have to negotiate.

[Question] Is the M-19 [words indistinct] international aid or from any other communist nation?

[Answer] We have always believed that any revolutionary organization must have as a fundamental principle the respect for self-determination. At this time we believe that the solidarity we receive from other revolutionary countries is a moral solidarity.

[Question] Have you received support from any of the small guerrilla groups still operating in Venezuela?

[Answer] So far, I have no idea. We are going to have contact with these people in Venezuela, but so far we have received no aid.

[Question] What is the exact number of hostages?

[Answer] At this time we are holding more than [words indistinct] persons as hostages.

[Question] Are there any wounded persons at the embassy?

[Answer] We have a companera wounded. This is why we did not release five women who we had as hostages while the government allowed the entry of a neurologist to determine if she had to be taken to a clinic to save her life. Since the neurologists said that our companera need not be taken to a hospital because she can be attended at the embassy, then this is why we are going to keep our promise and release the five women at this moment.

[Question] If President Turbay Ayala's regime does not meet your demands, what do you intend to do?

[Answer] We have already decided what to do but cannot tell you.

[Question] Would you dare to blow up the embassy with the hostages inside?

[Answer] Well, just let the military try anything, just let them try.

[Question] How many guerrillas make up your group?

[Answer] More than 30.

[Question] We know that you have firearms. Where did you get them?

[Answer] We obtained them in battle, in the daily battle, in the daily struggle.

[Question] What kind of political training have you received?

[Answer] We have the training needed by any revolutionary for the struggle for power. This is military, political and moral training.

[Question] Have you received any training from the Arab countries? How much truth is there about this, commander?

[Answer] We obtain our training in the daily struggle from our own people.

[Question] There are many rumors circulating about the guerrillas including one saying that they have participated in actions in Europe?

[Answer] I do not know Europe. [words indistinct] our Colombian people have not gone to Europe.

[Question] Have you received economic aid from the guerrilla groups in our country?

[Answer] I have not had the pleasure of visiting Venezuela.

[Question] Do you know Carlos Ilich Ramirez, who is called the Jackal?

[Answer] I do not know him; I have heard about him but I do not know him.

[Question] Are you a mercenary or an authentic revolutionary fighter?

[Answer] No way, I am a man of the people ready to fight for their ideals where the revolution may demand.

[Question] Do you believe that the only way open to Colombia is socialism?

[Answer] The name of our operation is democracy and freedom. We want a truly democratic, free and popular country, where our people decide their fate.

[Question] How would you obtain this--by elections or by the use of arms?

[Answer] We believe that there is not only one way. We must use all possible ways.

[Question] This would then imply the use of weapons.

[Answer] I would say that we are using them at this time. This is a military operation.

[Question] How long did it take you to plan this operation?

[Answer] Over 6 months. [Words indistinct].

[Question] The seizing of an embassy is a violation of the fundamental principles of diplomatic law.

[Answer] This depends on the point of view. We see it from another point of view and are satisfied. We have not violated anything. We are respecting everyone. On the contrary, the government has never respected human rights. It is the people, the (?government) and newsmen [words indistinct] who say this to distort the truth.

[Question] From where did you get the money to finance the guerrilla activities?

[Answer] We believe that the revolution is not a game. We need large amounts of money, and this money must be taken from the capitalists who have taken the money from the people. We are waging a people's struggle to benefit the people. The people support us and we must take money from those who stole it from the people. Through our activities, we finance ourselves.

[Question] Then this means that you justify robbery?

[Answer] It is just the opposite. Thousands of children starve to death and there is much prostitution and unemployment. This is the result of bourgeois exploitation to build great palaces and make great profits. Is this justified?

[Question] What is your name, commander? Are you [words indistinct]?

[Answer] No, of course not. When I am somewhere else I will give you my name. This is not necessary. It is circumstantial.

[Question] Returning to the matter of the hostages, have you considered the possibility of transferring the hostages from this embassy to another, or any other place?

[Answer] No, we are very comfortable here.

[Question] What is the military situation around the embassy at this time?

[Amswer] At the beginning of the seizure of the embassy, which we accomplished rapidly, the situation was difficult because the army attacked us. We repelled the attack with high revolutionary spirit. We established as our number one condition to talk with the government about withdrawing its troops. We know the troops are 300 meters away, about a mile around the embassy, but we do not see them.

[Question] Certain political spokesman [words indistinct] have said there is a movement to destabilize the democratic regimes in Latin America. How true is this?

[Answer] I believe that the problem is the opposite. It is U.S. imperialism which is returning [words indistinct] to blame for all our evils. It is exploitation and inequality.

It is the misery in which all these countries live which makes peoples rebel and form their organizations. Our organization is born of the roots of the people. Most of our members are workers, peasants and students. We also have housewives. At this time we have more than one woman participating in our operation. This means that we are part of the people. We do not have Venezuelans, Cubans, Russians or Chinese. All of us are Colombians. This does not mean that we do not accept people from other countries in our ranks.

[Question] If the government were to meet your demands, to what country would you go?

[Answer] I cannot tell you yet.

[Question] Would you leave the embassy with all the hostages or would you leave alone?

[Answer] Necessarily, to our final destination. [sentence as heard]

[Question] Could this country be Venezuela?

[Answer] It could be and I would like Venezuela. It is a pleasant country and its people are a fighting people.

[Question] Well, commander, one last question. What is your message to the people of Colombia and Latin America through our station?

[Answer] That they can trust [words indistinct] that we shall not surrender. Rather dead than defeated.

Brazilian Paper Interviews Commander

PY292331 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 29 Feb 80 p 12 PY

[28 February telephone interview by JORNAL DO BRASIL correspondent Pepe Fajardo in Sao Paulo with Commander Uno, M-19 terrorist leader, at the Dominican Embassy in Bogota]

[Text] [Question] Can you call Commander Uno to the phone? I am Pepe Fajardo speaking from the JORNAL DO BRASIL office in Sao Paulo. I talked with him yesterday.

[Answer] Commander Uno speaking.

[Question] I want to know if there is any news.

[Answer] Many important events have developed in the last 24 hours. Negotiations with the government are underway, and to show our good will we released 10 women, a child, and two wounded. One of them is the honorary consul from Paraguay.

[Question] One of your comrades told me a few minutes ago that you were expecting a contact with the government. Have you already established this contact?

[Answer] Yes, it was to inform us that they would send two neurologists to take care of our wounded comrade. The two neurologists are already here, and they are taking care of her here at the embassy.

[Question] What is the situation on your demands at this time?

[Answer] The negotiations in this regard have not started yet. The negotiations were supposed to start as soon as we released the wounded hostages and the government sent the neurologists to take care of our wounded comrade.

[Question] There was some talk today that you were going to hold a collective interview.

[Answer] Yes, during that meeting we were planning to deliver the body of our dead comrade. But that meeting could not be held because the army did not allow it.

[Question] But Vasquez Carrizosa, the mediator between you and the Colombian Government, has just told me that the army has withdrawn.

[Answer] That is not true. The army has retreated to 3 blocks from here.

[Question] That is why the collective meeting could not be held?

[Answer] Precisely. We could not hold the meeting. We, therefore, had to deliver the body of our dead comrade to the Red Cross.

[Question] The demand is still the release of all political prisoners and not just the release of M-19 members?

[Answer] Yes. We have a list that we will disclose only after the government accepts our conditions.

[Question] About this list, you told me yesterday that your Comrade Jaime Bateman was neither detained nor dead.

[Answer] That is right. He is free. He is alive and fighting.

[Question] Vasquez Carrizosa told me that you and two other guerrillas were present at the meeting he held with the ambassadors, and that two of you had your faces covered.

[Answer] That is right. We cover our faces on certain occasions.

[Question] Could you tell us what your rank is within the M-19 military and political framework?

[Answer] I am an officer.

[Question] A superior officer?

[Answer] No, I am merely an officer.

[Question] The operation is very similar to the two carried out by the Sandinists: the occupation of a residence where a diplomatic celebration was being held and the taking of the national palace in Managua. Did you take those operations as models?

[Answer] No, they have nothing to do with this operation.

[Question] I am referring to the spectacular aspects, the seeking of international attention.

[Answer] Yes, that was in fact our objective. We wish to show the public that here in Colombia there are political prisoners, that there is torture here. That was our reason for taking the embassy.

[Question] What would be the number of political prisoners in Colombia today?

[Answer] We have a list of 311 people.

[Question] Are those the persons who are being put on mass trial or are there others, apart from them?

[Answer] There are some who are not in those trials, people who are sentenced to 17 or 19 years in prison. Some of them have been on the Gorgona Prison Island for 17 years. They are revolutionaries whom we believe deserve to be released, although they are not in agreement with us.

[Question] Some time ago, on Gorgona Island, I interviewed Jaime Tarcisio Guaracas, one of the leaders of the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia).

[Answer] Exactly, and we are demanding the release of Guaracas, primarily because he is a fighter without any shortcomings; we believe we should pay homage to those who struggle for the people. Guaracas has been in prison on Gorgona for almost 17 years.

[Question] Commander Uno, what is the situation of the M-19 today? Was the blow you suffered last year a very hard one, with regard to the tough military repression which followed the stealing of 5,000 stands of arms from the arsenal of the military institute?

[Answer] Yes, it was. But with this operation we are showing that the M-19 is not scared and is not going into asylum, although we are now talking from inside an embassy. We will not surrender; you can be quite certain of that.

[Question] I am very anxious to know what will happen because the conditions you demand are very hard. The release of all political prisoners, for example, is a challenge which hardly any government would be able to accept. Is there any possibility of reaching some agreement, of ceding some point?

[Answer] We are waiting for the course of events, but we do not see any problem in negotiating.

[Question] Commander Uno, at the beginning the M-19 presented itself as the armed branch of the ANAPO [National Popular Alliance], the party founded by Rojas Pinillas; and it seems that, despite the divisions in that party, some factions of the socialist ANAPO continue as members of the M-19, as shown by the prominent place held by Carlos Toledo Plata in the movement.

[Answer] I can see that you are well informed.

[Question] I ask you--how would you define the M-19 today?

[Answer] It is a political-military organization, formed by men and women of our people. They are workers, peasants, students, housewives, unemployed persons, intellectuals, politicians and all those who want a democratic change. With our theses we have even won over several of the ambassadors we have as hostages.

[Question] How about ideology?

[Answer] We are leftists, but not orthodox leftists. The M-19 is a broad movement which has a place for all those who wish to struggle and work for the democratization of the country.

[Question] Commander, since M-19 stands for 19 April Movement, that is, it is designated to commemorate the date on which, according to analysts, the election of General Rojas Pinilla was tampered with and the government was turned over to President Pastrana, why did you choose Vazquez Carrizosa, who was precisely Pastrana's foreign minister, as a mediator?

[Answer] We wanted to show that we were not influenced by factions in choosing the mediators. Although Vazquez Carrizosa was traditionally ultraconservative, he has changed over recent years, especially since he began defending human rights. The human rights issue, especially torture, is what we are trying to emphasize. The reason we chose him is because he is a widely known international personality. Incidentally, I wish to state that although we have hostages here we do not torture anyone, while all of our comrades now in jail have been tortured.

[Question] Are you conducting the mediation on two fronts: first, through the four ambassadors appointed by their colleagues, and second, through yourselves?

[Answer] No. Five of us are coordinating the mediation: the four ambassadors and myself. This is neither anarchy nor a monarchy in which I am the one who gives orders. We maintain a permanent dialog with the ambassadors.

[Question] How many members does your commando have?

[Answer] More than 30.

[Question] Is it true that you entered the embassy by taking advantage of the arrival of an ambassador?

[Answer] It was not so. We had planned the operation for more than 6 months. We entered in couples as if we were guests.

[Question] Were you one of those couples?

[Answer] I don't know whether I was one of them.

[Question] Has any government whose ambassador is your hostage contacted you?

[Answer] Yes. Most of the ambassadors have contacted their governments.

[Question] Including the Brazilian ambassador?

[Answer] Yes. The Brazilian ambassador has contacted his government, and I understand that the Brazilian officials, like those of other countries, told the Colombian president to expedite the dialog.

[Question] What is your situation at this moment?

[Answer] Snipers posted outside have been provoking us. But we have not been returning their fire. They are members of the military police and of the F-2 (secret service).

[Question] How do you go about getting some sleep?

[Answer] We do everything in shifts.

(At this point, Commander Uno passes the telephone to the Mexican ambassador who, in his opinion, is important to the good outcome of the negotiation.)

[Question] How are you, Mr Ambassador?

[Answer] Everything is all right, fortunately.

[Question] After sheltering refugees at the Mexican embassies in Managua, Bogota and other capitals, you are now going through a different situation.

[Answer] It is very difficult, but it fortunately has been calm up to now.

[Question] What are the prospects for the negotiations?

[Answer] Negotiations are beginning, and we will see how the Colombian Government responds.

[Question] What has been the reaction of your respective governments?

[Answer] As for Mexico, I can tell you that my government just sent an envoy to talk with the Colombian president.

[Question] Would you like to send a message to your wife or to any other person?

[Answer] Thank you, but I have already contacted them.

Leader's Identity Allegedly Determined

PA031510 Paris AFP in Spanish 1423 GMT 3 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 5 Mar (AFP)--Commander Uno, leader of the 19 April Movement (M-19) group which has been holding some 20 diplomats hostage at the Dominican Republic Embassy here since Wednesday, is said to be Ernesto Charry Montealegre, educator and former seminarist, it was reported here today.

According to today's issue of the newspaper EL TIEMPO, the security corps have determined through up to date investigations the identity of the guerrilla leader, who has been described by the released hostages ad "very intelligent." The report adds that Dr Mary Brigen, a graduate of the National University of Colombia, is the guerrilla woman who yesterday began negotiations with two government representatives inside a van.

According to the newspaper, the security corps added that they have determined that kidnaper Rafael Otero Cifuentes and a former employee of the Dominican Embassy here, Libio Tiburcio Salin or Salas, are part of the terrorist group.

Charry Montealegre has a record as a leftist revolutionary. He was arrested 3 years ago under charges of directing a guerrilla training camp together with Juan Manuel Gonzalez. The latter and Charry Montealegre founded in 1977 the Popular Self-Defense Forces (FAP), which later became the Workers' Self-Defense Movement (MAO), with a Trotskiyite leaning. According to security corps data, Charry left with his entire family for Mexico and nothing had been heard from him until now, as he is apparently in command of the M-19 group at the Dominican Republic Embassy.

Gonzalez was killed 2 weeks ago in Bogota during a shootout with the police. He was found to be carrying subversive propaganda when he engaged in the shootout with the authorities.

M-19 Reportedly Contacted President

PA031605 Paris AFP in Spanish 1541 GMT 3 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 3 Mar (AFP)--A message put together with clippings from local papers was supposedly sent by the 19 April Movement (M-19) members to President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala last night, it was reported here today. The message contains the two basic demands of the insurgent commando unit which has been holding 20 hostages at the Dominican Embassy since 27 February.

"To Turbay: guerrillas and $50 million; strategic points of the embassy mined. [signed] M-19," reads a text of the communique published in the media today.

Observers think it may have been put together by other M-19 members in the country because the group inside the embassy has not been receiving any papers and they would not have been able to drop the message in the mail. It has also been speculated that it could have been put together before the embassy takeover.

Ex-Hostage: M-19 Can Blow Up Embassy

PA032012 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1934 GMT 3 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 3 Mar (EFE)--The 19 April Movement [M-19] guerrillas who for the past 6 days have been holding 14 ambassadors hostage can blow up the embassy since they apparently mined it the very day they occupied it. Waiter Dario Pinilla announced this today. Pinilla was one of the five hostages released by the guerrillas yesterday after the first talks with the government. "The guerrillas have pistols, submachineguns and hand grenades and have repeatedly said they will blow up the embassy if the government does not heed their demands," he told the press.

According to Pinilla, at first there were about 50 or 60 hostages who were later divided into groups and sent to the various rooms in the embassy. "The ambassadors were sent to the ground floor," he explained. "The guerrillas would not let us smoke and, although they seemed nice, they did not take their eyes off us." He added that the leader of the guerrillas wears glasses, seems to be young and has undisputed authority within the group.

It has also been learned today that Costa Rican Charge d'Affaires German Blanco Solis, who last year granted asylum to five M-19 guerrillas, is now being held hostage in the Dominican Embassy by the same subversive organization. According to the data obtained by this agency, last September Blanco Solis granted asylum to the Monge Benavides family, and the government in San Jose is now pressuring this family to have it intervene on behalf of the diplomat's release.

Angelo Acerbi, the apostolic nuncio in Colombia, has been saying two Masses every day inside the occupied Dominican Embassy. This leads one to believe that the M-19 has divided the hostages and put them into two embassy rooms, one possibly for the ambassadors, and the other for the rest of the hostages.

According to observers, it has also been confirmed that there is a direct telephone line open to the Vatican which the nuncio has used at least twice while being held hostage. During his phone talks, the nuncio has kept Pope John Paul II posted about the situation inside the embassy, possibly in order to obtain the pope's mediation at any given moment.

Meanwhile, the military commands posted in the area today at noon evacuated other residences near the embassy.

Released Hostage Describes Guerrillas

PA031630 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1602 GMT 3 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 3 Mar (LATIN)--There are reportedly about 29 people in the leftwing guerrilla group that has occupied the Dominican Embassy here and is holding diplomatic and consular officials hostage, one of the people released yesterday reported today. Carlos Ferreira, a waiter who was in the embassy the day of the attack and was released when the talks began, said the "guerrillas refer to each other by numerals. They are Commander Uno, Commander Dos and Commander Tres. The others are companeros: Companero 7, Companero 28. The highest number used is 29." He said Companero 30 is the guerrilla who was killed during the attack. He also said Apostolic Nuncio Angelo Acerbi says Mass every day. "On Sunday when I was released, we attended Mass at 0700 (1200 GMT) and the guerrillas were there," Ferreira told newsmen.

Venezuelan Ambassador Comments

PA282144 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2043 GMT 28 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 28 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The Venezuelan ambassador to Colombia, who was not identified here by name and who is one of the 14 diplomats being held hostage by a cell of the M-19 guerrillas in the Dominican Embassy in Bogota, told a Managua radio station that a solution could be reached within 2 days. "Everything depends on the attitude of the Colombian Government, but I note a willingness for dialog on the part of those involved in this case," the ambassador said.

When the newsman for the Aqui Centroamerica newscast asked where the guerrilla group planned to go after negotiating its departure from Colombia, the Venezulean diplomat answered: "That has not yet been decided." The ambassador added that former Colombian Foreign Minister Alfredo Vasquez Carrizosa and the U.S. ambassador, as representatives of the hostages, and Commander Uno, chief of the guerrilla group, are negotiating with Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas. He said the negotiations "are being carried out tactfully."

He said that the wounded who are inside the occupied embassy are not seriously hurt.

Commander Uno said that he was "denouncing to the world" the "intransigence and lack of humanitarian spirit of the Colombian Government, which will be to blame for the dire consequences that may result from this action."

Colombia's CARACOL radio network, monitored here at noon today, said that one of its newsmen and other colleagues have placed themselves in front of the Dominican Embassy to wait until they are permitted to receive the body of the guerrilla killed during the storming of the embassy.

Envoy Hostage Urges 'Itinerant Asylum'

PA031720 Paris AFP in Spanish 1619 GMT 3 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Caracas, 3 Mar (AFP)--Venezuelan Ambassador to Colombia Virgilio Lovera, who is a hostage at the Dominican Embassy in Bogota, asked his government to insist on the possibility of granting "itinerant asylum" to his captors, leftwing 19 April Movement (M-19) guerrillas, the Caracas EL UNIVERSAL reported today.

Itinerant asylum would mean that the guerrillas can first go to one country and then to another and, according to the paper, Venezuela may be the first country to grant asylum. Panama has already officially offered asylum to the guerrillas.

President Luis Herrera Campins said his administration is not considering that possibility but is waiting for things to evolve and following events very closely.

EL UNIVERSAL reported that Venezuelan Foreign Ministry officials and Ambassador Jesus Alberto Fernandez of the special coordination office set up in Caracas by the nations whose ambassadors are being held hostage in Colombia, met at the Caracas Hilton Hotel. The paper reported that the possibility that, at Lovera's request, the Venezuelan Government may insist on granting itinerant asylum to the guerrillas was discussed at the meeting. EL UNIVERSAL added that Lovera said that it was agreed during a meeting of representatives of the 15 nations involved in the embassy takeover in Bogota that responsibility for the negotiations should be left up to the Colombian Government. He said that confidence was voiced at the meeting that the Colombian Government will avoid taking actions that may further endanger the diplomatic hostages.

It was also decided at the meeting to endorse the Colombian Government's efforts and to ask for detailed information on events and the efforts being made at the proper time. Lovera insisted on voicing his confidence in the results of the negotiations between the Colombian Government and the M-19 guerrillas which, he said, will be resumed today.

Salvadoran Ambassador Not Hostage

PA291901 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1843 GMT 29 Feb 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 29 Feb (LATIN)--Salvadoran Ambassador to Colombia Mauricio Garcia Prieto escaped being a hostage at the Dominican Embassy in Bogota because he was late for the diplomatic appointment, Foreign Ministry sources reported here today.

The delay was due to the fact that he had to make an international telephone call, Protocol Officer Jose Luis Lovo Castelar reported.

When Garcia Prieto arrived, the embassy had already been taken over and was surrounded by soldiers and police. He decided to leave, the official report says. Garcia Prieto had been previously reported among the hostages. This brings down to at least 13 the number of ambassadors being held hostage by the Colombian guerrillas.

Hungarian Envoy Raps Speculation

PA291737 Paris AFP in Spanish 1609 GMT 29 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Quito, 29 Feb (AFP)--Hungarian Ambassador to Colombia Miklos Vass who, according to international press reports, left the Dominican Embassy in Bogota 2 minutes before the extremist attack, said one can arrive at a reception early and also leave before it is over.

The Hungarian diplomat, who arrived in Quito yesterday to present his credentials to President Jaime Roldos in the next few days, told an EL COMERCIO reporter that he had to leave the embassy early because he had an engagement to keep at the GDR Embassy. According to Ambassador Vass, the international news agencies tend to speculate with and exaggerate the news.

Vass arrived in Quito Thursday morning and refused to comment on Bogota-datelined reports that several socialist countries' ambassadors left the Dominican Embassy before the 19 April Movement guerrillas' attack.

Justice Minister Comments

PA030312 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0150 GMT 3 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 2 Mar (EFE)--The Colombian Government today expressed its objective of defending democracy and the lives of the diplomats being held hostage in the Dominican Embassy by members of the 19 April Movement (M-19).

Colombian Justice Minister Hugo Escobar Sierra described Wednesday's seizure of the embassy as a "violent act." "The seizure of the Dominican Embassy very clearly represents a violent act which disregards international laws such as the inviolability of embassies. It shows how far the extreme leftists will go beyond the legal system," Escobar Sierra told the CARACOL radio network. "This shows how far the guerrillas think they can achieve their objectives by using violence," he said. "Physical violence, violence against people, armed violence, the violation of universal or human rights do not fit in a democracy," he added.

The minister said that due to the guerrilla's demand for the release of political prisoners "quite a difficult and complex situation has arisen and one cannot disregard the fact that the difficulties are very great." "The government has the essential objective of protecting the lives of the diplomats who are held in the Dominican Embassy. I believe that is its greatest obligation and to this end it will act very cautiously so that their lives will not be threatened," he said. "At the same time the government has to protect our institutions. It must fully protect them. The government cannot abandon the exercise of national sovereignty," he stressed.

"Nevertheless, it may occur that those two essential objectives do not coincide at a specific moment and that they contradict themselves. Therefore, the government has to view the development of events with great calmness and serenity," the minister said. "We do not know what the outcome of such a compromising situation will be due to the fact the subversives have threatened to blow up the Dominican Embassy and kill the diplomats if their demands are not met," he indicated. "Whatever occurs, the main responsibility lies with the subversives. However, as a result of their bold and somewhat suicidal attitude, the government will seek a way to reconcile the defense of the institutions with the protection of the lives of the diplomats," he added.

Nevertheless, he warned that the government will not suspend next Sunday's elections of the municipal and departmental assemblies throughout the country.

Government 'Ready' To Attack

FY032112 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 3 Mar 80 p 19 FY

[An exclusive for O GLOBO by Gloria Helena Rey]

[Excerpts] Bogota--Despite the optimism surrounding the negotiations between the government and the group of extremists who have taken over the Dominican Embassy, reliable sources have indicated to O GLOBO that the chances that the Colombian Government will accept all the demands which the M-19 has made to release the hostages are few. According to these sources, the only acceptable demand is the permission for the extremists to leave the country for one of the nations which has offered asylum, such as Mexico or Panama.

Colombian official circles are commenting that the government is ready to take the embassy by force even at the risk of a bloody outcome, in the event that no agreement is reached with the guerrillas. In order to carry out this operation, not only Colombian military security forces are being prepared, but also the foreign commandos who have been arriving in Bogota. It is reported that Israeli and American commandos and an unknown number of agents from international secret services have arrived in the last 72 hours.

Another report which circulated insistently in Bogota yesterday is the possible connection of an official of the Dominican Embassy with the extremists. This official allegedly let 10 extremists into the diplomatic mission at 0600 on 27 February, which is the day the occupation took place. It is even expected that the government will issue a communique on this issue within the next 48 hours.

The latest events have led to more rumors of a conspiracy to overthrow the Liberal government of President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala and to install a hardline regime which would carry out a more aggressive struggle against terrorism. The main difficulty for this is the close relationship which has always existed between the government and the majority of the military officers, due to the long and deep-rooted friendship between President Turbay Ayala and Defense Minister Luis Carlos Camacho Leyva.

Political Parties Support Government

PA291517 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Feb 80 PA

[Oscar Dominguez report]

[Text] The presidents of the National Liberal Directorate, Victor Mosquera Chaux, and of the National Alvarist Directorate, Celio Andrade Manrique, have come to the national palace. The latter read a press statement released on 28 February in Bogota supporting the government's work in the current emergency situation and in opposition to the takeover of the Dominican Embassy.

[Begin Andrade Manrique recording] The national directorates of the Liberal and Conservative parties hereby reiterate their concern over the incidents harmful to the safety of Colombians and the security of the state that have been occurring with suspicious frequency before the upcoming election for municipal councilmen and departmental assemblymen. They reiterate their support for the democratic system threatened by the subversive groups which unfortunately are being abetted domestically and internationally by organizations which, under the apparently respectable pretext of defending human rights, are wittingly or unwittingly contributing to the [word indistinct] of the institutions which, in nations such as ours, have a firm republican tradition.

They state their [words indistinct] the armed attack on the Dominican Embassy and the outrage of distinguished representatives of friendly nations and defenseless citizens who have been forcibly held hostage in an effort to achieve ends wholly opposed to the will [words indistinct] of the Colombian people and firm democratic principles. Peace loving and profoundly respectful of human rights and the inviolability of the diplomatic residences, they voice solidarity with the president of the republic and his administration under these particularly complex circumstances as far as public order is concerned; and offer their support in whatever actions are deemed necessary to insure the security of the state and to protect the lives and the rights of the diplomats being forcibly subjected to unfair and humiliating treatment. They trust the public will respond to this challenge of the subversive forces [words indistinct] with a strong show of democratic confidence in and loyalty to the (?establishment) of 9 March.

Dr Guillermo Angulo Gomez, president of the Pastranist Conservative Directorate, was unable to attend the directorates' meeting with the president of the republic because he was on an electoral tour of Tolima Department, but he voiced his support for the aims sought by this statement, a text of which has not been discussed with him yet because it was difficult to contact him.

[Signed] Victor Mosquera Chaux, president of the National Liberal Directorate; Celio Andrade Manrique, president of the National Conservative Directorate. [end recording]

Business Sector Backs Government

PA031433 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Mar 80 PA

[Text] In Bogota the economic associations today will release a statement voicing their total support for the government's position and actions regarding the takeover of the Dominican Embassy by a group from the 19 April Movement. The statement was discussed with all association chairmen last week. A private sector commission will visit the president's office today to deliver the statement to him. The banking association stated that the president must be certain the country as a whole endorses the actions he may take to secure the release of the hostages.

EPL Threatens Attack

PA032331 Paris AFP in Spanish 2232 GMT 3 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 3 Mar (AFP)--The pro-Beijing Peoples Liberation Army [EPL] warned the Colombian Government that it would attack if the government tries to assault the Dominican Republic Embassy, where several ambassadors are held as hostages. In a telephone call to Radio Cadena Nacional, a member of the EPL command expressed support for the rebels holding the embassy and said a unit will take reprisals if the military authorities take "drastic steps."

The commando unit identified itself as the Pedro Leon Arboleda Unit, named for one of the EPL founders who was shot by members of the secret service several years ago in Cali.

Wall Slogans Support Occupation

PA031646 Paris AFP in Spanish 1627 GMT 3 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 3 Mar (AFP)--Slogans urging the Colombian people to support the occupation of the Dominican Embassy by a cell of the leftist 19 April Movement appeared painted on the walls of the Colombian television offices here today. The slogans were painted in large red letters on the walls of the offices in question located in downtown Bogota.

ARGENTINE CONSULATE IN MEDELLIN ATTACKED

PY291639 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1548 GMT 29 Feb 80 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Feb (NA)--The Argentine Government has requested that the Colombian authorities reinforce security measures to protect the Argentine Consulate building and personnel in Medellin. The consulate was the target of a fire bomb attack staged by unknown individuals. The incident was officially disclosed by the Foreign Ministry today through a communique which reads as follows:

"At about 1900 yesterday unidentified people attacked the building of the Argentine Consulate General in Medellin, Colombia. Two molotov cocktails were thrown at the building and although the facade was damaged, the interior of the building was not affected. Because of this incident, the appropriate authorities have been asked to reinforce security measures to protect the personnel and building of the consulate.

POLICE DISPERSE DEMONSTRATORS IN MEDELLIN

PA011456 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[Text] According to police sources, a girl has been injured during disturbances in Medellin. The public forces used tear gas to disperse an unauthorized demonstration staged by teachers, parents and students who were protesting the closing of a school. [sentence indistinct] Several demonstrators were arrested. Peace has been restored and military forces are patrolling the streets.

Two Bombs Explode

PA031426 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Two petards went off in the downtown area of Medellin last night causing only some property damage, the 4th Brigade has reported. One of the devices exploded near the Liberal Party Directorate office and the other one in front of the Civil Registry offices. Military authorities have begun an investigation. They feel the attack is similar to others which have occurred here in the past few days and are intended to upset the public order before the off-year elections on 9 March.

TWO ALLEGED M-19 MEMBERS TO BE ARRAIGNED

PA031446 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Bogota--Two alleged 19 April Movement [M-19] guerrillas will be arraigned before a military criminal court judge in the next few hours. A movement commando unit is holding 18 diplomats hostage at the Dominican Embassy.

The two guerrillas were arrested following a shootout with a military patrol in the north during which an innocent person in a vehicle was killed, the official report said today. The insurgents were identified as Ignacio Barrios and Gerardo Moreno. The latter was shot in the left leg. Both are under arrest at the Gen Ramon Arturo Rincon Quinones mechanized cavalry detachment. They were carrying weapons, jewelry and an unspecified amount of dollars.

Jorge Ignacio Barrios Garcia, alias Meneco, was identified by military authorities as one of the individuals who on behalf of the M-19 committed several crimes, such as kidnapings and attacks on several religious, military and credit institutions. Meneco was one of the kidnapers of businessman Jaime Rendon Franco, who was taken from a Mercedes Benz used to attack the (Dintama) religious art musuem in Boyaca Department.

M-19 GUERRILLA KILLED NEAR MILITARY ARSENAL

PA012250 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1655 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 1 Mar (EFE)--Police have reported that a guerrilla was killed here this morning near the Usaquen military arsenal in a confusing shootout.

Last night the M-19 guerrillas occupying the Dominican Republic Embassy revealed that M-19 members had carried out an operation close to the [Usaquen] military base. Military intelligence reported very briefly that presumed guerrillas fired at a soldier on guard here but that he was not wounded.

The police report said that in the confusing shootout, guerrilla Jose Eduardo Jaramillo was killed and his companion, Gerardo Moreno Martinez, was seriously wounded.

This is the second incident in the past 24 hours related to the occupation of the embassy. Last night military guards fired at an unidentified person who came dangerously close to the Dominican Embassy.

LEFTIST THREATENS THIRD STRIKE BY M-19

PA011652 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1617 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[Excerpt] Bogota, 1 Mar (LATIN)--An official source revealed today that one of the top leaders of the 19 April Movement (M-19), 25 of whose members occupied the Dominican Embassy in Bogota on Wednesday and are holding at least 40 persons hostage, said today that "this is the second goal scored against the (Colombian) Government and the third one will be even better."

Ivan Marino Ospina, third in command of the leftist group who is being tried by military court in Bogota along with 216 other persons charged with being members of the M-19 group, shouted during yesterday's session: "Wait for the third one, which will be better."

"This is the second goal scored against the government," he said. He apparently considered the first to have been the robbery of over 4,000 weapons from a military depot in northern Bogota in January 1979. The M-19 claimed responsibility for the robbery.

MARCH ELECTIONS TO PROCEED DESPITE GUERRILLA ACTION

PA292115 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1830 GMT 29 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 29 Feb (LATIN)--Interior Minister German Zea Hernandez has reported that the government will not call off the 9 March municipal elections because of the hostage situation at the Dominican Embassy. New councils in about 1,000 municipalities and all deputies to the assemblies of 22 departments are to be elected on 9 March.

The minister told the press that "the Civil Registrar's Office, which is in charge of organizing and insuring the success of the elections, is prepared and has everything ready for it." In addition, the "military will guarantee order" during the election, he said.

Meanwhile, Victor Mosquera Chaux, president of the board of the ruling Liberal Party, said there is no reason to call off the elections. "On the contrary," he said, "they will serve to show whether the people side with the subversive movements or prefer the democratic solutions offered by the traditional parties." He added that the government must not accept any of the conditions set by the attackers "because every principle of authority would disappear."

MEDIA ELECTION COVERAGE TO BE STRICTLY CONTROLLED

PA031419 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Colombia's off-year elections will be held on Sunday with strict control over radio and television news reports, Communications Minister Jose Manuel Arias Carrizosa has reported. The media will be allowed to air only official bulletins or else be punished according to law.

The minister advised the media of this to avoid problems with the radio or television stations.

FOREIGN MINISTER VIEWS DOMINICAN EMBASSY SITUATION

PY010225 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 29 Feb 80 p 2 PY

[Excerpt] Paraguayan Foreign Minister Alberto Nogues yesterday stated that he had held a telephone conversation with his Colombian colleague, Diego Uribe Vargas, to express the concern of the Paraguayan Government for the safety of Oscar Gorostiaga, Paraguayan charge d'affaires in Colombia.

Nogues added that he had told the Colombian foreign minister that Paraguay hoped that all the necessary measures that would lead to a satisfactory outcome of the situation will be taken. According to Nogues, the Colombian foreign minister also expressed his concern for the situation. According to news agency reports, he also said he hoped a solution will be found shortly to this difficult problem caused by the extremists.

Well-informed sources, moreover, confirmed that the national government hopes that the Colombian Government has taken all the necessary measures to insure the lives of the hostages. A high-ranking diplomatic source has stated in this regard that "it is the obligation of the Colombian Government to take all the necessary and proper measures in compliance with the procedures of international law."

POLICE CONFIRM ARREST OF REPORTER HECTOR RODRIGUEZ

PY022028 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 1 Mar 80 p 13 PY

[Excerpts] A reporter of this newspaper, Hector Rodriguez, has been under arrest and held incommunicado at central police headquarters since yesterday morning. Police Inspector Daniel Coronel, chief of the Public Order Department, has said that our colleague is under arrest "by order of higher authority," for "being a liar." The Paraguayan Press Union (SPP) and the Press Club released a communique yesterday condemning the arrest.

As a result of Hector Rodriguez' arrest, the Paraguayan Press Union released the following communique: "1. We repudiate this new illegal action, which is an attack on the freedom of information. 2. We demand that appropriate officials order the immediate release of our member Hector Rodriguez. 3. We confirm our confidence in Hector Rodriguez' professional honesty and reject the police accusation that the reporter under arrest gave false information. 4. We believe that freedom of information, protected by the national Constitution, is one of the basic conditions for press workers to carry out their duties. Therefore the SPP affirms the defense of these conditions in accordance with the spirit and postulates which brought about the creation of the SPP. 5. We express our alarm and concern over the repeated attacks on the freedom of the press. 6. We demand that officials put an end to this intensified repression of press workers and the inalienable right of the people to be freely informed."

The Press Club, which includes journalists of independent newspapers, has released a communique denouncing Hector Rodriguez' arrest. The document states that "this event is a new attack on the freedom of expression and confirms the existence of continuous persecution of the country's independent journalists. The new arrest of a reporter without any justified reason and the persistent propaganda to discredit the work of the independent press also represent an obvious intent to frighten; inappropriate under a state of law."

In conclusion,the communique states: "In view of this circumstance, the Press Club states its solidarity with its arrested member and demands of officials his immediate release, as well as the suspension of all measures against freedom of the press."

MANFREDO VIEWS DELAY IN U.S. APPOINTMENTS TO CANAL BOARD

PA021736 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 29 Feb 80 pp 1-A, 6-A PA

[By Franklin Bosquez d'Giovanni]

[Text] According to the canal administration, the delay in the appointment of the five U.S. members who will make up the Panama Canal Commission has forced this entity to adopt several decisions and implement certain policies which were necessary for the operation of the canal without the participation of the Panama Canal Board of Directors.

Fernando Manfredo, deputy administrator of the Panama Canal Commission, told this newspaper that the most recent reports indicate that in the next few days the U.S. Senate will implement the counsel and approval procedure which will allow the U.S. President to appoint the five members to the Board of Directors of the commission who will work jointly with four Panamanians.

"The delay in the appointment of the Board of Directors has caused justified annoyance in Panama, particularly because 5 months have passed since the treaty went into effect. This delay has several explanations but Panama is right in expressing its discontent." Manfredo said. "From the point of view of the canal administration," Manfredo explained, "this delay has forced us to adopt several decisions and implement certain policies that were necessary for the canal operation without the participation of the Board of Directors. Despite the foregoing, Manfredo stressed: "We have done this with the clear understanding that all decisions and policies will be taken to the Board of Directors when it convenes in order to get its ratification and approval."

Manfredo concluded by stating that some of these decisions include, for example, the appointment of the "ombudsman," a labor mediator of high hierarchy, the policies granting preference to Panamanians in jobs, promotions, rotation, training and salary scales as well as policies on maintenance and capital investments.

GOVERNMENT ACTION AGAINST BROADCASTERS PROTESTED

PA040405 [Editorial Report PA] Panama City Radio Hogar in Spanish at 2315 GMT on 4 March reports protests from various organizations at the government's action on 3 March canceling the broadcasting licenses of four radio commentators. [Panama City Radio Hogar on 3 March lists them as: Milciades A. Ortiz, Julio Ortega Coronado, Luis Alberto Pimentel, and Miguel Antonio Bernal Villalaz]

The radio carries a communique by the Radio Commentators Union attacking the government move as an attempt against freedom of expression in the country and calling on all political organizations to attend a protest meeting on the afternoon of 4 March at the bar association offices. The radio also carries a resolution by the Authentic Independent Teachers Movement describing the government action as a violation of human rights and calling all members of the movement to a meeting Tuesday morning at the Republic of Venezuela School.

A communique by the Panama University Law School student center claims that "the same measure will be applied to others soon" in a violation of freedom of expression by the "the dictatorship" aimed at drowning the last vestige of democracy in Panama. The group calls on all organizations and people to be "on a state of alert." "Down with the Torrijist dictatorship; democratic freedom now," the communique concludes. A communique by the "National Civilian Orientation Coordination Action Committee" charges that "freedom of expression has been muzzled again" and promises that the group will join with other organizations and civic groups in supporting any decision against the government move.

COSTA RICA

FOREIGN MINISTRY REJECTS ASYLUM REQUEST OF M-19 MEMBERS

PA032000 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 Mar 80 PA

[Text] The request for territorial asylum filed by the brothers Jorge Armando, Jose Gabriel, Fabio and Ramon Monge Benavides, members of the 19 April Movement [M-19], the Colombian guerrilla group, has been turned down by the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

The Monge Benavides brothers were arrested Monday [as heard] after an M-19 commando group took several diplomats hostage at the Dominican Embassy in Bogota.

The Monge Benavides brothers and their families will be deported this week to a third country since they will not be granted territorial asylum. These Colombians arrived in Costa Rica in September after taking refuge in the Costa Rican Embassy [in Bogota] claiming political persecution.

The Colombian exiles are still under arrest. It has been learned from confidential sources that the government feels it is not advisable to retain people who are linked to guerrilla groups, such as the Monge Benavides brothers in the country. They will probably be sent to Nicaragua or to any other country willing to accept them.

PRESIDENT SCORES SOVIET ACTIONS IN CENTRAL AMERICA

PA020347 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0155 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[By Eduardo Castro]

[Text] San Jose, 29 Feb, (ACAN-EFE)--The USSR has assumed an aggressive policy in Central America, trying to create problems in the area, according to Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo Odio.

President Carazo granted an exclusive interview to ACAN-EFE. He interrupted the interview three times when he was called to discuss matters pertaining to the Costa Rican ambassador to Colombia, Maria Elena Chassoul, who was being held hostage.

The ACAN-EFE reporter was on the line when the president received the news of the ambassador's release and was able to speak to her.

The president, who is starting his third and next-to-last year in office, discussed the changes being effected in Central America by the international, and particularly the economic, situation. Carazo said, "the intense changes throughout the world are creating social imbalances. Each Central American country has its own circumstances, which should be dealt with carefully, country by country."

He said, "I believe the USSR has assumed a very aggressive political position. With the help of 'fifth columnists' it is trying to cause problems, serious ones in some countries and lesser ones in others, but always seeking, as far as possible, the destruction of the democratic system."

Carazo said that, logically, advantage is being taken of some great social injustices in some countries in the area. He said, "In that sense the situation in Central America is no different from that of Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, South America, the Middle East--not to mention every area in the world."

He was asked if he meant that the USSR is participating actively in the struggle to prevent the Salvadoran Government junta, as a democratic group, from remaining in power.

He said, "There is no political process in our area in which Soviet imperialism does not intervene." He said that the USSR wants to be in on everything. "It goes everywhere, and in every country it finds submissive people who bow to Soviet interests." He added, "There are some people who spend their whole lives devoted to Soviet interests, trying to see how they can destroy the countries where they were born. There is nothing we can do about that."

A newsman pointed out to Carazo that his recent support for the Nicaraguan revolution had been praised by some countries and groups and condemned by others. He said that when people who do not understand things express their opinions, they might make mistaken statements. He said, "We must know the difference between Somoza and what the USSR is doing. I believe Somoza and the Soviet dictators are alike. When human rights are violated, when the individual is attacked, when Christian values are destroyed I condemn them both equally."

He was asked what he thought of statements that Nicaragua, after the revolution, has become a USSR launching pad to export agitation. He said, "I think Nicaragua did rather well, even though Somoza tried for 50 years to convert Nicaragua to communism." Carazo said Moscow has "entered Central America. In Afghanistan and in Czechoslovakia it was with armed force. It uses violence everywhere to dominate territories and to trample on the will of the people."

Asked if he thought the two superpowers are fighting for control of El Salvador, Carazo said, "I would say that the powerful countries always do their fighting in someone else's backyard."

He said, "Some people do not understand things, but that is not their fault. Many people try to get quick advantages from political circumstances. That is why we have to be sure to defend what is fundamental, because side issues cannot affect what is fundamental."

Carazo spoke out against the United States granting military aid to El Salvador. He said Central America needs to be helped financially and with food because food production has decreased because of recent military operations. Besides, the whole world is facing starvation.

EL SALVADOR

COLUMNIST HITS U.S. STRATEGY IN SUPPRESSING REVOLUTIONS

PA020235 San Salvador EL INDEPENDIENTE in Spanish 29 Feb 80 pp 5, 12 PA

[Fernando Gutierrez commentary: "U.S. Policy in Central America"]

[Excerpts] The United States maintained for dozens of years, actually ever since its establishment as a country, a policy of unconditional support for oligarchies in Central America and the Caribbean in order to maintain its domination of the region. They have suckled every gorilla that has appeared in these regions.

Under the Carter administration, a new policy was inaugurated: the policy of "human rights." This policy is the result of several overall factors which affect the affairs of the world today. On the one hand, the worldwide capitalist crisis, the U.S. defeat in Vietnam and the rise of the worldwide labor movement has checkmated their system in all directions. On the other hand, in the face of this very unfortunate situation for the imperialists, there is an attempt to discredit the so-called socialist countries, also for having violated human rights.

Therefore, let us realize that Carter's human rights policy is essentially a counter-revolutionary policy. It is one which gets him into trouble because at certain moments he has to admit that the gorillas he has suckled systematically violate human rights. In this regard, his policy is weak. It is vulnerable in many ways, which shows that, rather than an offensive policy, it is a defensive one.

The imperialists know the oligarchy very well. They are aware that it is politically primitive. They know that it can and would like to commit a massacre and unleash a bloodbath in the country. However, they also know that if the oligarchy does this, the revolution would become a reality and that, in trying not to lose a little, they might lose everything. That is why they sought out and are actively supporting the present Christian Democratic junta and "warn" their most primitive gorillas that they will not support them in a coup attempt that is not reformist.

The imperialists do not want a revolution to erupt in the country and they know that the oligarchy would promote one with its savage policy. This does not mean that the gringos are the allies of the Salvadoran people. They are the people's main enemies, but they are also very intelligent and skillful. They have great experience in preventing revolutions.

Neither does this mean that, at some point, the North Americans, in view of the rejection of the present policy, will refrain from supporting the oligarchy in a massacre or that, when the revolution erupts, they will be unwilling to intervene, even militarily. However, those will be their final cards, not the first ones.

FAPU ACCUSES U.S. GOVERNMENT OF INTERVENTION

PA010347 San Salvador EL INDEPENDIENTE in Spanish 29 Feb 80 pp 8, 9 PA

[Advertisement: Manifesto by the United Popular Action Front; no date given]

[Excerpt] From the beginning of his term, Carter promised to change U.S. foreign policy and to maintain a constant and permanent defense of human rights. Nevertheless, Pinochet's criminal regime in Chile was receiving U.S. aid and maneuvers of all kinds were carried out to prevent the fall of Somoza in Nicaragua. In the meantime, our country is the victim of outrageous intervention and human rights violations despite what Carter had said. This shows the true face of imperialism.

The mask over human rights has fallen and its artificial smile has given way to tanks and machineguns, while a direct aggression policy is put into practice again.

U.S. Embassy meddling in our internal affairs is more noticeable each day. Not only are Salvadorans arrested and later on reported missing, there is also direct intervention in government policies, including the militarization of the River Lempa Hydroelectric Executive Commission (CEL) stations. The U.S. also has the power of decision among the disputes of the Salvadoran military.

The U.S. Government is trying to restrain the advances of the people and their organizations; but on the other hand, it is supplying arms to the army and other repressive forces, including providing technical assistance from Vietnam veterans.

The flow of arms and ammunition is constant to satisfy the criminal ambitions of the fascists in El Salvador. The U.S. is definitely playing its cards on the junta which, if lacking the people's support, no doubt will be replaced by a government of the right. The U.S. is also not discarding the possibility of direct military intervention if necessary.

The spectacular promises made by Carter at the beginning of his administration regarding the solution of the U.S. economic crisis and trying to regain world leadership by presenting a new image, are today a tremendous failure. Carter has tried to impove his deteriorated image before the electoral campaign by reconciling with the military and through his determination to promote a cold war. In the meantime, he has approved the installation of nuclear missiles in Europe and has used his naval forces as a threat in the Caribbean. He is also backing dictators in South America and supplying arms to fascists in El Salvador. In gratitude, the Christian Democratic-military junta has proceeded to decorate the U.S. ambassador.

The history of Latin America has proof of brutal U.S. domination and of the outrageous pillaging of its wealth. But our history is also rich in cases of heroism and dignity of the people's determination to break away from imperialist domination. Nicaragua, which today is enjoying full sovereignty and victory, is the most recent and closest example of how, through struggle, people can eliminate dictators and defeat imperialism.

OBSERVERS PREDICT LEFTIST COUP IN NEAR FUTURE

PA292331 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 29 Feb 80 pp 3, 66 PA

[Text] A leftist coup very soon has been predicted in the international news media and by apolitical sectors in the country.

This position by the various leftist groups, according to reports, is based on recent events which highlighted the platforms and government plans announced by organizations such as the United Popular Action Front (FAPU), the Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation (FENASTRAS), the 28 February Peoples Leagues (LP-28), the Peoples Revolutionary Bloc (BPR), the National Liberation Movement (MLN) and other organizations linked to the Salvadoran Communist Party.

News received yesterday indicates that "the Marxist-Leninist groups will soon attempt to take power." Reports available to official sectors indicate that the pronouncements published in the media by these groups define government programs and express their determination to establish a totalitarian socialist government in El Salvador.

In this regard, reliable sectors which have been observing the political path taken by the various leftist movements maintain that when the U.S. Government took an active part in handling the delicate political situation by supporting positions that emerged from the military uprising of 15 October 1979--an action which overthrew the government of Carlos Humberto Romero--it gave most Salvadorans reason to hope that, with the establishment of a new regime, El Salvador would return to the path of legality and the violence would be stopped by intelligent measures designed to reestablish peace in this convulsed country.

It is also noted that the U.S. Government gave diplomatic recognition to the first Revolutionary Government Junta, which included the left, an act that was described as showing support for the government program based on the armed forces proclamation. "This attitude," it is said, "destroyed the alliance of the leftist forces, because each of its factions advocated a different style of government, including a Marxist-Leninist type."

Analyses of the process in the past few days indicate that the rise of the Christian Democrats with the support of the United States and the Andean Pact gave that party a basis for trying to show that it could save the situation. This in turn caused the political errors it has made. They describe as errors the sidelining of the national productive sector and the violation of the 1962 Constitution, which is still in effect.

Observers of the Salvadoran situation expressed their opinion through international reports to the effect that the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] tried in vain to compete with the irrational excesses of the communists, trying to win over the majorities. They say that events "have demonstrated the strategic error of the PDC" and that its posture, which is described as demagogic, has helped polarize the people instead of uniting them, "thereby making it impossible to restore order and peace in the republic." Finally, it is said that having placed the PDC in power and having kept it there has been a serious political error which is precipitating the country toward communism. All this, the reports and analyses conclude, has led the leftists to seek an early rise to political power by any means in order to establish a Marxist-Leninist regime.

ARCHBISHOP ROMERO CONDEMNS ESCALATION OF REPRESSION

PA022230 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1856 GMT 2 Mar 80 PA

[By Mauro Espinoza Fernandez]

[Text] San Salvador, 2 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--San Salvador Archbishop Msgr Oscar Arnulfo Romero condemned in his Sunday sermon what he described as the authorities' "repressive escalation," but he also accused the leftist organizations of committing "indiscretions" that led to the military operations carried out in El Salvador.

"The peasants' terror can partly be blamed on the indiscretion of the popular organizations, since on many occasions they provoke the military operations," the archbishop told an audience of several hundred people, many of them carrying recorders. The archbishopric's Catholic radio station was destroyed last week by a bomb planted by rightist terrorists. This led the archbishop to ask those attending the Masses to record his sermon so they can later play it in their communities.

According to Monsignor Romero, at least 45 people died last week, many of them at the hands of the security corps, in military operations carried out in several of the country's rural areas. The archbishop added that some 600 people have died so far this year, victims of the political violence prevalent in this convulsed Central American country. He also denounced the captures and disappearances of some 14 people.

Monsignor Romero then expressed concern over a diminution "in the Salvadoran people's capacity to react, protest and condemn." There is now greater fear of talking and acting, he went on, adding that in his opinion, this had led to a "repressive escalation" by the authorities.

"It is not possible to promote socioeconomic reforms without eliminating repression," the archbishop told the Revolutionary Government Junta. The archbishop was thus referring to an agrarian reform decree, which will presumably be published next week. Along with the nationalization of banks and foreign trade, the agrarian reform is part of the program of structural changes outlined by the present government, which rose to power on 15 October, when Gen Carlos Humberto Romero's regime was overthrown.

The archbishop was particularly critical of the forthcoming publication of this agrarian reform decree, stating that unless it is accompanied by an "end to repression," it will merely constitute "a measure aimed at distracting national and international public opinion."

In a more or less veiled fashion, the archbishop criticized the $50-million credit provided by the United States, commenting that "millions are not enough to bring about a reform." The agrarian project must have "the support of the people. It does not have to be imposed from outside or from the top," he added.

Romero then criticized the fact that Peoples Revolutionary Bloc (BPR) activists have once again occupied the metropolitan cathedral. "It is an outrage committed against Christian people," he stated.

According to him the BPR is one of the leftist groups that spend the most on paid publicity in the Salvadoran social communications media. "In just 1 week, the BPR has spent 90,000 colones ($36,000) on propaganda. Could they not do something more beneficial for the people with this money?" the archbishop asked.

He also asked Salvadorans to make critical suggestions to the revolutionary democratic government's programmatic platform, which the four leftist organizations that comprise the leftist forces' Revolutionary Coordinating Board announced this week.

The archbishop also addressed himself to the kidnapers of South African Ambassador Archibald Gardner Dunn and of Salvadoran industrialists Jaime Hill and Adolfo McEntee. "It is high time they were released," he said of the long captivity of the three men.

Dunn was kidnaped on 28 November 1979 by the clandestine Popular Liberation Forces. Hill and McEntee were taken prisoner by the Marxist Revolutionary Peoples Army at about the same time.

CLARAMOUNT URGES PARTICIPATION OF POPULAR GROUPS IN GOVERNMENT

PA010005 San Salvador EL INDEPENDIENTE in Spanish 29 Feb 80 p 1 PA

[Text] Col Ernesto Claramount in a television program yesterday caused great surprise by urging that the present revolutionary process in the country permit the participation not only of all political parties but also of popular organizations, one of which, the 28 February Peoples Leagues [LP-28] takes its name from the day on which Colonel Claramount took asylum in El Rosario Church along with the masses after he was cheated of his victory in the 1977 elections.

If one turns to a coup d'etat to promote social revolution, it is because the Constitution and the existing system are inadequate to achieve the people's welfare and therefore to insure the nation's survival, the colonel stressed.

It is absolutely impossible to build the nation on the political, economic and social bases that existed before the revolutionary movement of 15 October 1979, the date the armed forces issued its historic proclamation.

With these words, he seemed to have expressed his main point, but he brought the television public to his main theme by stating emphatically: I believe that in our country social peace, political stability and economic progress are impossible unless the popular organizations participate in government and in political responsibility, along with all the political parties and organizations, with everyone together making the effort that we need to establish the new system to replace the one we want to eliminate.

Claramount also said he hopes for firm and patriotic participation by the armed forces that will make its proclamation and its pronouncement a reality.

Tomorrow we will publish more details of Colonel Claramount's statement.

FORMER JUNTA MEMBER UNGO URGES MILITARY PURGE

PA012357 San Salvador LA CRONICA DEL PUEBLO in Spanish 29 Feb 80 p 1 PA

[Text] "A purge among the military is urgently needed," Dr Guillermo Manuel Ungo said to a news agency during his visit to Nicaragua, where he is attending a solidarity conference with this Central American country.

The leader of the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR), a social democratic party, said this in reference to the need for the army to rid itself of the fascist sectors within itself, to truly promote a process of democratization in our country.

Regarding a possible reincorporation of the MNR into the junta, which is made up of military personnel and members of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], Ungo said it would first be necessary for the military to define its position. "We made a pact with an army that was different from the present one," he added.

Ungo said there is no doubt that if the progressive forces within the military were to prevail, not only the MNR but even the most radical forces would be willing to cooperate.

He added that at present the government is weak and the PDC, which is its main support, lacks popular support. He said his greatest concern is to avoid the bloodbath that is looming over El Salvador.

Ungo said that unity is possible within the civilian sector, but not within the military. The military should first resolve their problems, perhaps by means of an internal purge, he said.

He explained the Salvadoran democratic forces are seeking unity and so are the extreme leftist armed groups.

GUATEMALA

REPORTS OF UNREST ON SOUTHERN COAST CONTINUE

PA292121 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1600 GMT 29 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 29 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The further burning of sugarcane and cotton plantations, the destruction of farm machinery and sugar installations as well as invasions were reported today on Guatemala's southern coast.

Nevertheless, the government remains optimistic about success in the talks sponsored by the Labor Ministry to reach a peaceful settlement between employers and farmworkers.

Presidential spokesman Carlos Toledo Vielman said the labor, economy and agriculture ministries are working jointly to reach solutions satisfactory and acceptable to the parties involved in the dispute. He warned, however, that the government is not prepared to accept illegal actions and once more blamed the unrest on the southern coast on the activities of professional agitators.

Meanwhile, several trade union organizations affiliated with the National Council of Labor Unity have expressed support for what they describe as "the exploited peasant class."

Other actions are taking place simultaneously with the activities of farmworkers, who are demanding raises, including the "peaceful" march yesterday afternoon by shopkeepers of the municipal market in Escuintla to protest irregularities by five employees who were finally dismissed.

The government said today it does not feel it is necessary to reinforce the police riot squads which are already in the south. It is felt this stems from the statement made yesterday by Interior Minister Donaldo Alvarez Ruiz to the effect that "we are not prepared to fall into the ambush being laid." He explained that according to reports in his hands, the agitators seek a confrontation between the peasants and the police to obtain martyrs and promote the sympathy of that sector with the clandestine struggle.

FUR MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

PA031643 Guatemala City Radio Mundial in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Feb 80 PA

[Text] The apparent unity of the United Revolutionary Front [FUR] could be disrupted at any moment as a result of the recently adopted decision not to participate in the upcoming municipal elections, which are scheduled for the second week of April, according to political sources in Congress.

Initially, the party leadership had decided to participate in the elections, but later the National Political Council in an official joint declaration [words indistinct] did not think it possible for the FUR to participate in the municipal elections, several deputies said.

However, what apparently provoked the FUR's decision not to participate in the municipal elections was the change of date of the elections, which did not please the FUR leader, political sources concluded.

HONDURAS

OFFICIAL DENIES REPORTS OF AGREEMENT WITH EL SALVADOR

PA031957 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa--Carlos Lopez Contreras, Honduran deputy foreign affairs minister, today denied here that an agreement has been signed to resume relations soon with El Salvador. He attributed the report to a misinterpretation of the part of the Costa Rican press when it was told that, as a result of the talks with Alejandro Gomez Vives, Salvadoran deputy foreign affairs minister, the finishing touches had been given to some clauses to be included in the general peace treaty.

He said no agreement has been reached with El Salvador to resume trade relations. All this results from a misinterpretation because it was even affirmed that diplomatic relations would be reestablished but that it is not yet known when.

NICARAGUA

LINKING OF PRESS FREEDOM WITH U.S. LOAN CALLED 'MEDDLING'

PA291943 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 29 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpt] Danilo Aguirre Solis, president of the Union of Journalists of Nicaragua [UPN], has said that there is press freedom in Nicaragua and that any attempt at imposing conditions by means of the loan approved by the U.S. Congress would be meddling in Nicaragua's domestic affairs.

[Begin Aguirre recording] Our government has asserted that it will not accept one cent with conditions from anyone in the world.

Specifically regarding press freedom, it seems to me that this is more than meddling; it is intervention in our private affairs because we are already exercising press freedom in Nicaragua. We newsmen are the ones who can say if there is press freedom in Nicaragua. Any accommodating criteria based on old principles of press freedom held anywhere in the world do not fit our revolutionary process. We know that there is and there will be press freedom here. Therefore, we regard attempts at conditioning a loan through allusions to press freedom in Nicaragua as intervention. [end recording]

SERGIO RAMIREZ EXPLAINS POSITION ON U.S. LOAN

PA020324 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Much has been said about the $75-million loan from the United States. It is good that we make clear what it will be used for. We should not be mistaken, friends. There has been much speculation about this $75 million. We must clearly state how it will be used. Today's interview is with Companero Sergio Ramirez who will speak about this loan.

[Begin Ramirez recording] Our revolution, our National Reconstruction Government is not making any type of deal regarding the granting of the loan. In the U.S. Congress there is a discussion [words indistinct] the granting of a $75-million loan to Nicaragua. This is a subject which exclusively corresponds to U.S. [word indistinct] of discussions. We know that some steps still have to be undertaken. The loan has been approved by the House of Representatives and the Senate. When all these steps conclude, we, the sovereign and independent Government of Nicaragua, the government of the Sandinist revolution of Nicaragua will examine the terms of this loan. At that time, the government will decide whether or not it will accept that loan.

[Question by unidentified newswoman] Dr Ramirez, we know that the Nicaraguan Government maintains its position of not accepting the loan with conditions but that loan [words indistinct]?

[Answer] That is true. There are extreme rightwing forces in the United States which would like to stop this loan. It was approved by a small majority and now this loan still has to be subjected to further steps. Nevertheless, it is still a (?triumph) for the Sandinist people's revolution that this loan was approved. However, I repeat that it is after all these discussions are over that we will decide whether or not we will accept this loan.

[Question] A local newspaper today spoke about conditions that the U.S. Congress has set on (?our dignity)?

[Answer] The U.S. Congress has imposed some conditions on President Carter. We cannot intervene. We do not intervene in the affairs of other countries. We cannot intervene regarding the conditions on a loan which the U.S. Congress might place on the U.S. President. If there are conditions which affect Nicaragua and our independence, the people can be sure that we will never accept them.

[Question] If this loan were not granted to Nicaragua, what would be the Nicaraguan Government's reply?

[Answer] If this loan did not reach the hands of the government, that is, the hands of the Nicaraguan people, our people should know that this is not a matter of life or death. We are not going to die of hunger if this loan is not granted. The only way the Nicaraguan people will die of hunger is if they stop working and producing, if their efforts do not produce more rice, corn, beans and sugar. It is that organized effort and work of the Nicaraguan people which will produce the true wealth of our country. Of course, we are not going to say that we do not need loans.

The loans are welcome but we also have two things. First, we have the work of the Nicaraguan people who produce our wealth [words indistinct]. Our work and effort is much more important than any kind of loan.

[Question] If the loan were granted without conditions, how would it be used?

[Answer] We accept loans without any conditions wherever they may come from. We are going to use them in schools, housing, education, the reactivation of the economy, anything that will benefit the Nicaraguan people. When it is time to invest the money, it is we Nicaraguans who will decide how it will be invested.

[Question] There has been talk that more than half of that loan would be for private enterprise. (?How do you view this)?

[Answer] What the North Americans are saying is that half of the money [words indistinct] should be used to import machinery and vehicles to help the economic development of Nicaragua. The importations of these machines and vehicles were carried out by the private enterprise in the past. [end recording]

CEREMONY HONORS MURDERED U.S. NEWSMAN

PA020201 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0054 GMT 2 Mar 80 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 1 Mar (LATIN)--A ceremony was held today to honor murdered U.S. newsman William Stewart on Nicaraguan Newsmen's Day. Stewart, a newsman for the ABC Television Network in the United States, was killed by a Nicaraguan National Guardsman last year shortly before the overthrow of the Somoza regime.

Commander Bayardo Arce, a member of the Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, placed a wreath on the eastern Managua Street where the newsman was murdered.

Arce said that "in this way the Sandinist Front honors the memory of an honest U.S. newsman who came to Nicaragua to report on the Nicaraguan people's struggle for freedom and was murdered by the genocidal Somozist National Guard." He said this homage "is also extended to many other newsmen who came to Nicaragua to report objectively on the war of liberation and who continue to come here today to make honest reports on the revolutionary process."

The ceremony was part of the events slated during the Third Congress of the Union of Journalists of Nicaragua.

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE OPENS IN MANAGUA

PA290459 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0330 GMT 29 Feb 80 PA

[Text] The International Conference of Support and Solidarity With the Nicaraguan Revolution opened in Managua today. Delegations of democratic mass organizations and political parties of Latin America and Europe are attending the conference.

Mario Soares of Portugal, former Venezuelan Foreign Minister Alberto Consalvi, Jorge Arturo Reina of Honduras and many other distinguished representatives of their people are meeting in Nicaragua today in a climate of broad freedom and great antiimperialism.

The conference is sponsored by the German Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN]. The conference was inaugurated by Sergio Ramirez Mercado, a member of the National Reconstruction Government Junta, and Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce, a member of the FSLN National Directorate.

1 March Session Held

PA012133 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0300 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[Text] The International Conference of Solidarity With Nicaragua today discussed a report on the situation in this Central American country and the outlook for the Nicaraguan revolutionary process.

The document containing the analysis was presented to the meeting by Commander Bayardo Arce, member of the National Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, who sketched a realistic picture of the harsh living conditions the Nicaraguan people endured under the Somoza tyranny.

Arce said the history of the Nicaraguan revolution is a history of hunger, unemployment and exploitation, exemplified by the 52 percent illiteracy rate, the 20 percent child mortality rate, the 50 percent unemployment rate and the shortage of 4,700 doctors and 5,000 teachers.

He noted the permanent [words indistinct] from U.S. imperialism to Somoza and said the revolutionary fighters always felt that the main foe was the international oligarchy.

Ricardo Aguilar of Panama; Francisco Granados, representing the Spanish Socialist Workers Party; Daniel Oduber, former Costa Rican president, and Mario Soares, secretary general of the Portuguese Socialist Party, spoke during the session. Other speakers were Rene Zabaleta of Bolivia; Guillermo Molina, representing the Central American University Confederation; newsman Gregorio Selser and Luis Bitargo, member of the Salvadoran National Revolutionary Movement, among others.

Several speeches were made in the afternoon on the situation in various Central American countries and their peoples' struggle for liberation.

PASTORA CLAIMS OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE INVOLVED IN COMPANIES

PA032127 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1809 GMT 3 Mar 80 PA

[Text] San Jose, 3 Mar (LATIN)--Nicaraguan Deputy Defense Minister Commander Eden Pastora today accused the CIA of fomenting the paralysis of companies in his company.

The alleged plan "has the support of extremist elements affiliated with the Central of Labor Action and Unity (CAUS), which in turn is affiliated with the Communist Party of Nicaragua," Pastora said.

According to Pastora, the National Reconstruction Government of Nicaragua today issued a decree ordering the immediate nationalization of those companies which were "unjustifiably" removing capital, as well as those that take their machinery out of the country or declare themselves bankrupt without providing sufficient evidence. The official, who became known as "Commander Cero" during the civil war against Anastasio Somoza's government, arrived here to preside over the ceremony yesterday that inaugurated Nicaraguan Airlines (Lanica) flights between Managua and San Jose.

According to Pastora, the decree seeks to neutralize the plan to paralyze Nicaraguan companies. Sectors that do not want the slightest change in the country are involved in this campaign.

"They want to create chaos in the country, but they will not accomplish that. The campaign is just beginning and we will not let it develop," he stated.

The guerrilla leader, who will return to Managua this afternoon, warned that those companies that violate the decree will be viewed as opposing the official slogan of "increase production and crush counterrevolution." Nonetheless, he noted, the government's current relations with the private companies are "better," as are relations with the Superior Council of Private Enterprise. He explained that the state's various bodies are now working normally and that "the Nicaraguan revolution guarantees human rights." He also admitted that the possibility of counterrevolution being waged "is present, but not soon."

GOVERNMENT ORDERS STRIKING WORKERS BACK TO WORK

PA020157 Paris AFP in Spanish 0048 GMT 2 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Managua, 1 Mar (AFP)--The Sandinist government today ordered some 2,000 workers who are currently occupying 14 businesses in different parts of Managua to return to work no later than Monday [3 March] morning.

The government's order was announced while the strikes appeared to be extending to other companies. The newspaper BARRICADA, the official mouthpiece of the Sandinist front, accused the CIA of helping to promote the labor unrest.

Under the headline, "It Is Time To Struggle Against the CIA," the newspaper BARRICADA says that the U.S. intelligence services are trying to destabilize the revolutionary process in Nicaragua by promoting labor unrest.

Labor Minister Virgilio Godoy also demanded that the situation return to normal in the 14 companies, saying that the workers have chosen the wrong time to make their demands because their occupation of the premises is affecting production. The companies have been occupied for different reasons, including the charge by some workers that their bosses are sending their money abroad and are curtailing operations in stages. These workers are demanding that they be allowed to run the businesses.

In other companies the problem has come about because of salary demands, the firing of some labor leaders, or complaints by the businessmen that they have no foreign exchange to buy raw materials abroad to continue production.

IMPRISONED EL PUEBLO NEWSMEN BEGIN HUNGER STRIKE

PA010051 Managua Radio Mundial in Spanish 1930 GMT 29 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpt] Imprisoned newsmen of the paper EL PUEBLO held a press conference today to announce that they were beginning a hunger strike at 1200. Taking advantage of their appearance at the Managua First District Criminal Court, the imprisoned newsmen held a press conference. The prisoners who appeared at the offices of Judge Victor Manuel Ordonez of the First District Criminal Court are Juan Alberto Henriquez, Isidro (Peyes), Nora Gordon, Andres Velasquez and Ricardo Guevara.

They told newsmen they were going on a hunger strike beginning at noon today. They are demanding the release of members of the Workers Front and the reopening of the newspaper EL PUEBLO, which was closed by the Attorney General's Office.

U.S., UK, PRC POLICY ON AFGHANISTAN CONDEMNED AT UN

FL040137 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Mar 80 FL

[Text] Cuba today denounced at a plenary session of the nonalined countries movement at the United Nations the interventionist, destabilizing and counterrevolutionary role of U.S. imperialism and its allies. Speaking at the plenary session of the nonalined movement, Cuban delegate Felix Pita Astudillo condemned the hypocrisy of the U.S. Government concerning Afghanistan. The United States, China and Great Britain, said the Cuban diplomat, have been continuously plotting against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan since 27 April 1978, the date of the popular revolution in that country.

NONALINED ACTION URGED IN 'TENSION AREAS' OF WORLD

FL040053 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Mar 80 FL

[Text] Cuba today asserted that the current areas of international and regional tension test the capability of nonalined countries to respond and demand united, cooperative and solidary action from the nonalined movement.

Speaking at a plenary session of the nonalined countries movement at the United Nations, Cuban delegate Felix Pita Astudillo stressed the need to undertake concrete measures concerning Palestine, Zimbabwe, Namibia, South Africa and Cyprus. He also emphasized the movement's work on noninterference in the domestic affairs of other states and the problems concerning the Mediterranean.

CHOMON MEETS WITH JAPANESE COMMUNIST LEADER

FL291836 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Feb 80 FL

[Text] Kenji Miyamoto, chairman of the Japanese Communist Party Presidium, today received the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] delegation headed by Faure Chomon Mediavilla. The PCC Central Committee member talked with the Japanese leader in a fraternal atmosphere. They discussed matters of interest to the two parties.

The PCC delegation is attending the 15th Congress of the Japanese Communist Party which ends today with the election of its Central Committee. The party has 600,000 members of whom 1,035 representatives are attending the congress that opened on 24 February.

VISIT OF IRAQI EDUCATION MINISTER ANNOUNCED

FL040028 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Mar 80 FL

[Text] Iraqi Education Minister 'Abd 'Abd al-Majid today left for Havana to make an official visit of several days to our country. During his stay in Cuba the Iraqi minister will discuss matters concerned with bilateral relations in the field of education. He will also gather information on the literacy campaign carried out in our country for the purpose of applying it to adult education plans currently being implemented in Iraq.

DOMINICA

AUTHORITIES GRANT RESIDENCE PERMIT TO SHAH

PA032131 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Authorities on the island of Dominica have announced that they will grant a residence permit in the future to Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, the former shah of Iran. Eugenia Charles, leader of the Dominica Freedom Party, said authorization to remain in Dominica for the former Iranian monarch is implicit in a recently signed agreement by the island authorities with an institution of the United States.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

FOREIGN MINISTER: M-19 MAKING NO DEMANDS OF HIM

PA021550 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1458 GMT 2 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Santo Domingo, 2 Mar (EFE)--Foreign Minister Emilio Ludovino Fernandez today reported that "up to now" the guerrilla group which is occupying the Dominican Embassy in Bogota has made no demands from the Dominican Government of President Antonio Guzman. He also said his country does not have to pay any part of the $50 million demanded by the guerrillas.

At the same time, Fernandez revealed that Peruvian Ambassador Antonio Garcia Vasquez held a long meeting last night with the 16 diplomatic representatives involved in the occupation of the embassy by the 19 April Movement (M-19) guerrillas.

The foreign minister said that the occupation of the Dominican Embassy is not an attack against the Dominican Republic. He emphasized that he discards any possibility that the guerrillas will make economic demands from the Dominican Republic. He said this was confirmed during a conversation held with Commander Uno, the leader of the guerrillas. Fernandez said that in a telephone conversation with Commander Uno, the guerrilla did not mention any demands of the Dominican Government and emphasized that the list of demands is being made to the government of President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala.

The head of the Dominican diplomacy said that President Antonio Guzman has expressed his concern over the fate of approximately 40 hostages who are still at the embassy and said he hopes the situation will be solved soon.

Fernandez said that the meeting held by the representatives of the nations involved in the occupation was "exploratory," consequently, they reached no conclusions.

The foreign minister said that he received a telephone call from Colombian Foreign Minister Diego Uribe last night who informed him on the situation at the embassy and guaranteed that the public forces will not intervene so as not to endanger the lives of the hostages. Fernandez said that Foreign Minister Uribe also told him that food is being regularly delivered to the hostages.

Fernandez noted that the embassy occupation is a chance occurrence and that it cannot be interpreted as a deliberate aggression against the Dominican Republic. Fernandez said that the action is explainable because the embassy is located in front of the university, therefore, its occupation was easy.

ARGENTINA

GRAFFIGNA NOTES POSSIBLE PLANE MANUFACTURE WITH BRAZIL

WA031202 London REUTER in English 1102 GMT 3 Mar 80 WA

[Text] Buenos Aires, March 3, REUTER--Argentina and Brazil will consider the possibility of jointly manufacturing a military plane, a member of the three-man ruling junta said today.

Air Force Commander Omar Graffigna told reporters before leaving for an official visit to Brazil that the two countries would discuss technology projects including the production of a fighter plane. Brigadier Graffigna said this could only be confirmed after his visit.

The Argentine Air Force currently produces the "Pucara" turbo-jet counterinsurgency plane. Brazil's aeronautics corporation EMBRAER makes the "Xavante" jet fighter.

MIGS-CEREALS EXCHANGE WITH SOVIETS DENIED

PY032019 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 1 Mar 80 p 4 PY

[Text] We have inquired at the Office of the Air Force Commander in Chief regarding a foreign report that the Soviet Union is willing to supply modern MiG-21 and MiG-23 fighters to Argentina in exchange for cereals, and that Soviet Defense Minister Dmitriy Ustinov will soon officially visit Argentina to discuss the issue. We were told that "there has been no information about such an offer until now," thus denying the above report.

It has also been reported that in implementing its replacement program, the Argentine Air Force does not intend to purchase any materiel outside of Western countries. It is proper to recall that the only Latin American country having Soviet materiel is Peru.

ECUADOR

ROLDOS VETOES NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL BILL

PA012331 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[Text] The government's veto of the National Development Council [CONADE] bill consolidates the Alliance With Popular Democratic Party of which Vice President Osvaldo Hurtado Larrea is a member. The veto was announced last night after the president of the republic sent a note to the acting president of the House of Representatives. The note recognized that the decision endangers the already fragile relations between President Roldos and Assad Bucaram, House of Representatives president who had harshly criticized Vice President Hurtado.

On returning the bill to the House, President Roldos indicated that paragraph 1 of article 1 of the bill violates the power granted to the president in article 89 of the Constitution by establishing that, in order for CONADE to fulfill its basic objectives, it must have the power to implement measures, programs and projects.

GUAYAQUIL OFFICIAL ARRESTED; REASON NOT KNOWN

PA282051 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1730 GMT 28 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Victor Palacios Andrade, deputy mayor of Guayaquil, was arrested at 1230 yesterday at the Alcibar Clinic while he was visiting Assad Bucaram, president of the House of Representatives, eyewitnesses reported. However, the governor, the police chief, the head of Guayas public security and the head of the criminal investigation office all denied ordering his arrest. They added that they have no idea who arrested him.

Eyewitnesses said three policemen got out of a car and told Palacios Andrade he was under arrest and that he would immediately be taken to Quito. The deputy mayor could not be found at his office or at home. His family said they did not know why or where he is being held.

SURINAME

MILITARY COUNCIL MEETS WITH PRESIDENT, NO ACCORD REACHED

FL031914 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1730 GMT 3 Mar 80 FL

[Text] Members of Suriname's Military Council this morning had their first meeting with President Johan Ferrier but still have not yet agreed among themselves on the structure of a new government. Five members of the eight-man council arrived at the presidential palace in Paramaribo under strong army guard for the meeting with the president. Each of the five carried a machinegun on arrival but left their weapons at the guard house before being escorted into the palace. Today's meeting followed talks with the Council which lasted until the early hours of this morning. However, despite the long hours of discussion, no definitive decision has been reached on the structure of the new government.

27 Mar Elections Canceled

FL032250 Kingston Domestic Service in English 2230 GMT 3 Mar 80 FL

[Text] The military rulers in Suriname have canceled the elections scheduled for March 27th. The announcement came after the Military Council had talks today with the civilian president, Johan Ferrier.

In a statement issued after the talks, the Council agreed to open all schools and to relax the dust-to-dawn curfew. The statement also said that the new government would be appointed as soon as possible to carry out administrative functions under the Constitution and that the armed forces and police will be under the authority of the National Military Council. It also stated that any change in the Constitution would be put to the people for approval. The statement didn't say what was to be the fate of the people detained following the coup. These are believed to number over 60 including senior officers of the army and police force. The army's noncommissioned officers seized power last Monday from Prime Minister Henck Arron's government. Mr Arron and most of his cabinet are in detention.

HAVANA NOTES 'BUSINESS AS USUAL' ATMOSPHERE

FL031253 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Mar 80 FL

[Text] Suriname's Military Council, which has been in power for a week, is studying the formation of a civilian-military government. Meanwhile, the population expresses relief over the overthrow of Prime Minister Henck Arron.

PRENSA LATINA reports from Paramaribo, Suriname's capital, the following: In the course of several private meetings held in the last few hours, the Council, composed of eight junior officers, has been studying the formation of the new government with the avowed purpose to eliminate corruption, delinquency, and misgovernment. The apparently publicity-shy officers are analyzing the delicate subject of consitutional legitimacy, a topic of special interest for that country of 350,000 inhabitants. This measured pace is creating a certain amount of confusion concerning the political route the new Surinamese process is taking. But, for the time being, the people seem to be attaching more importance to specific measures being implemented which they have received enthusiastically, than to great juridical and ideological definitions.

Among the first measures announced, which include the assignment of all police duties to the army, is simply the obligation to work--making the most of the workday. Other popular measures include strict control of the prices of basic goods in order to prevent speculation.

Actually, despite the presence of the Suriname Army at key points in Paramaribo and other parts of the country, there is great calm and the Surinamese and the tourists are going about their business as usual.

Meanwhile, Attorney Eddy Bruma, former economic affairs minister and founder of the National Republic Party, is working alongside Frank Leeflang, also an attorney, in the selection of a cabinet of civilians recommended by the Military Council. Lastly, the Military Council will hold a press conference tomorrow in which it is expected it will announce some of the members of the civilian cabinet as well as the elements of a national program.

BURMA SAYS NO FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT IN COUP

FL031700 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 29 Feb 80 p 11 FL

[Excerpt] Georgetown, Feb 28--Eddy Burma, one of the civilian administrators emerging in Suriname in the wake of this week's army uprising in the neighbouring former Dutch colony, has been reported here as saying that there was no foreign involvement in the coup. The state-owned Guyana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC) quoted Burma as saying so in a telephone interview.

Burma has said that the National Military Council which now rules Suriname wanted to continue "good relations with Guyana," the GBC reported.

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

ITAIPU TIMETABLE ADVANCED 24 MONTHS

PY022023 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 29 Feb 80 p 17 PY

[Excerpt] Sao Paulo--With the approval of the National Electricity Administration (Paraguay) and the Brazilian Power Companies Inc. (Brazil), the board of the Itaipu binational enterprise, which is responsible for building the Itaipu hydroelectric plant, decided yesterday to advance the completion date of the plant by 24 months--that is, the last turbine will now have to be installed by 1 May 1988. The cash flow that will result from the energy which will thus be obtained will help Itaipu make advance payments of its debt since it will have an additional $1 billion income in those 2 years.